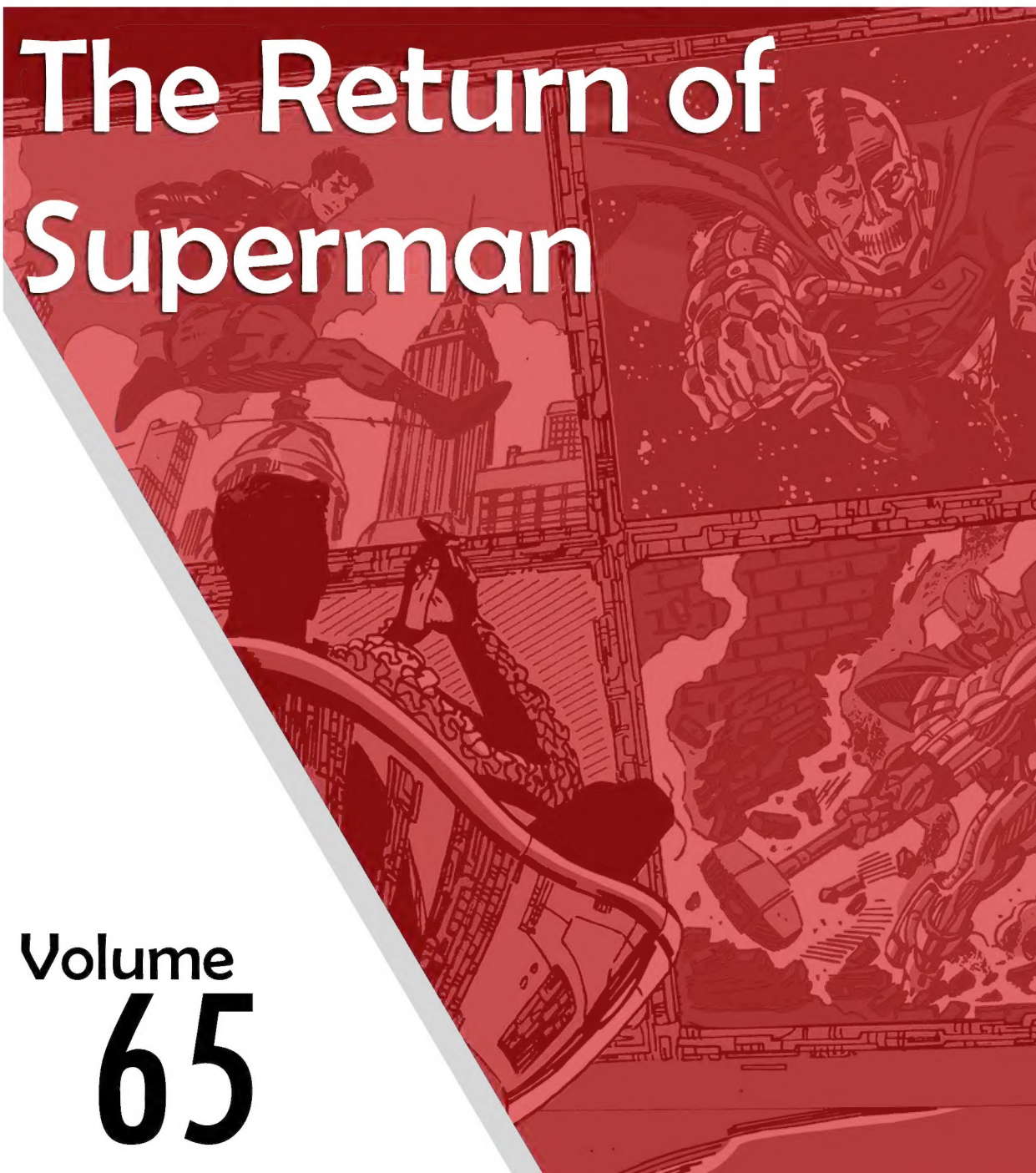
SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

The Return of Superman



Volume 65

SUPERMAN Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS The Return of Superman 65

PULL IT TOGETHER, TANA! WE'RE ON THE AIR --LIVE!

JUST TELL 'EM HOW YOU FEEL!

TERRIBLE... THIS IS TERRIBLE!

IT'S LIKE... LIKE A SCENE FROM SOME DISASTER MOVIE.

BUT THIS IS NO MOVIE... THIS IS A REAL DISASTER! HORRIBLY REAL!

F-FOR THOSE OF YOU JUST JOINING US... THE BAKERLINE END OF METROPOLIS'S FAMED HOBSNECK BRIDGE--

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G-8251

WHO IS THE HERO TRUE?

--HAS COLLAPSED! THE BRIDGE'S NORTHERNMOST MOORINGS WERE LEVELED IN A VIOLENT EXPLOSION... TRIGGERED BY A MASKED TERRORIST CALLING HIMSELF THE STINGER!

GBS

GOOD WORK, KIDDO. NOW TELL 'EM WHO YOU ARE.

THIS IS TANA MOON, GBS NEWS, LIVE AT THE SCENE... WHERE, JUST MOMENTS AGO, THE YOUTHFUL NEW INCARNATION OF SUPERMAN... FOUGHT VALIANTLY AGAINST THE TERRORIST...

--BUT, DESPITE ASSISTANCE FROM LEXCORP INTERNATIONAL'S SUPERGIRL, HE WAS UNABLE TO PREVENT THE TERRIBLE DESTRUCTION YOU SEE ON YOUR SCREENS.*

THE DEATH TOLL IS AS YET UNKNOWN, BUT THIS REPORTER SAW SEVERAL VEHICLES PLUNGE INTO THE HARBOR...

ROGER STERN WRITER * JACKSON & DENIS GUICE ARTISTS
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST
JENNIFER FRANK ASSISTANT EDITOR * MIKE CARLIN EDITOR

*IT ALL HAPPENED IN THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER JUST A COUPLA PAGES BACK!

...THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNS OF EITHER THE STINGER OR THE YOUNG HEROES WHO--!

NO, WAIT!

THERE'S MOVEMENT--!

YES, BOTH SUPERMAN AND SUPERGIRL APPEAR TO BE ALIVE! SUPERMAN, CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

HE'S APPARENTLY LOST THE COMMUNICATIONS HEADSET WE SUPPLIED HIM--!

OH, NO!!

THAT CAR--!

CAN HE POSSIBLY REACH IT IN TIME?!

GOTCHA!

AW, NO! THERE'S ANOTHER--!

IT'S OKAY--

SHTOOM

--I'LL STOP IT!

N-I-C-E WORK, SUPERBABE! YOU'VE GOT MOVES I DIDN'T EVEN SUSPECT! HOW'D YOU DO THAT TRICK WITH THE TRUCK?

I'M PSYCHOKINETIC, BUT WE CAN DISCUSS THAT LATER. RIGHT NOW--

"--THERE MAY BE MORE PEOPLE WHO NEED OUR HELP!"

MAN, HOW CAN SOMEONE WHO LOOKS SO HOT, THINK SO FAST?!

"SUPERBABE"?! HONESTLY--!

HE'S BASICALLY A SWEET BOY, BUT SO... DISTRACTABLE!

OMIGOD!

WHOA! DEMOLITION CITY!

THANK HEAVENS, THERE ARE SOME SURVIVORS!

WE GOT HERE JUST IN TIME!

SOMETHING LIKE THIS MUST SURE MAKE YOU A BELIEVER IN AIR-BAGS!

WOW! STILL KICKIN' AFTER A TUMBLE LIKE THAT, HUH?

"THIS... DEBACLE MAKES NEWS REENACTMENTS LOOK LIKE A QUEST FOR PURE TRUTH. I CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING...

...BUT I KNOW THAT VINCENT EDGE HAD A HAND IN SETTING UP THAT FIGHT BETWEEN SUPERMAN AND THE STINGER. NOW A BRIDGE IS DOWN... PEOPLE ARE DEAD! AND FOR WHAT?

TANA, YOU'RE ON! SAY SOMETHING!

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS HAVE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, AND ARE EVEN NOW WORKING TO STABILIZE THE VICTIMS--

LIVE REMOTE

--OF THIS TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE.

UNIT 12, WE ARE NEEDED.

BUT I WAS ORDERED TO MONITOR--!

THIS TAKES PRIORITY...

LIVE REMOTE

FOR A FEW LOUSY RATINGS POINTS?! SO EDGE CAN CHARGE MORE FOR COMMERCIALS ON HIS WGBS NEWS?!

AND I'VE GOTTEN SUPERMAN AND MYSELF ALL MIXED UP IN THIS MESS. WHAT'LL I DO NOW?!

"... THE MASTER'S REGENERATION MATRIX IS EXPERIENCING ENERGY OVERLOAD."

SHUT DOWN ALL SOLAR RECEPTORS!

DONE, BUT THE OVERLOAD EFFECT CONTINUES.

THERE MUST BE A RELEASE!

AGREED. THERE IS NO OTHER CHOICE.

MODULATE THE SUPPORT FIELD.

...LOWER THE MATRIX TO RELEASE POSITION.

DONE--

--BUT READINGS REMAIN WELL OFF-SCALE.

THIS IS WITHOUT PRECEDENT.

EVERYTHING THAT HAS OCCURRED SINCE THE MASTER'S DISCORPORATION HAS BEEN WITHOUT PRECEDENT.

WE WERE PROGRAMMED TO IMPROVISE UNDER UNCERTAIN SITUATIONS...

...WE MUST PROCEED WITH CAUTION AND BE READY TO--!

ALERT! ALERT! THE MATRIX SEAL HAS RUPTURED!

PREPARE TO RECEIVE OCCUPANT!

UHHN?

WHO...WHO'S THERE--?

HE AWAKES!

DIM THE LIGHTING-- HIS EYES MAY YET BE SENSITIVE!

MASTER...MASTER? HOW DO YOU FEEL?

FEEL? A LITTLE... FUZZY-HEADED.

SOME DISORIENTATION IS TO BE EXPECTED.

DO YOU RECOGNIZE US? DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE?

YOU'RE... THE FORTRESS ROBOTS. THEN... I'M IN... THE ANTARCTIC... IN THE UNDERGROUND HIDEAWAY?

CORRECT.

MASTER YOU SEEM UNSTEADY ON YOUR FEET...

...THIS IS TO BE EXPECTED, FOLLOWING SUCH A RUDE AWAKENING. ALLOW US TO SEAT YOU.

A-ALL RIGHT.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU REQUIRE...

...ANY OTHER WAY IN WHICH WE MAY BE OF SERVICE?

YES... YOU CAN TELL ME WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON.

AT ONCE, SIR.

UNIT-12--?

SOON...

...AND AS PER PREVIOUS ORDERS, I HAVE BEEN MONITORING ALL WORLD NEWS TRANSMISSIONS AND COMPILED DATA --

--ON ANY AND ALL INDIVIDUALS OPERATING UNDER THE NAME OF SUPERMAN AND/OR UTILIZING THE S-SHIELD IN THEIR ACTIVITIES.

THERE HAS BEEN MUCH SPECULATION ON THE PART OF COMMENTATORS--!

SAVE THAT FOR LATER, UNIT-12...

...SHOW ME WHAT'S GOING ON RIGHT NOW.

"YES, SIR. AT THIS MOMENT, THE YOUNGEST OF THE 'SUPERMEN' AND TEAM-LUTHOR'S SUPERGIRL HAVE WRAPPED UP RESCUE OPERATIONS AT THE SITE OF A METROPOLIS BRIDGE COLLAPSE.

"ALSO IN THAT CITY, CULTISTS WHO WORSHIP SUPERMAN AS A LIVING GOD CONTINUE TO RALLY IN CENTENNIAL PARK. THE EMERGENCE OF FOUR SUPERMEN HAS CAUSED MUCH CONFUSION--

THIS IS NOT GOOD. THIS IS NOT GOOD AT ALL.

"--AND HAS ALREADY LED TO ONE MAJOR SCHISM IN THE GROUP. CITY AUTHORITIES FEEL THAT THIS MAY LEAD TO VIOLENCE.

UNIT-12, GIVE ME A RUN-DOWN ON ALL KNOWN... SUPERMEN.

YES, SIR...

"THE CYBORG SUPERMAN CLAIMS PARTIAL AMNESIA. HIS BIONICS SHOW EVIDENCE OF KRYPTONIAN TECHNOLOGY.

"HE RECENTLY SAVED THE U.S. PRESIDENT FROM A QURACI ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT...

"... SOME PUNDITS HAVE CALLED THE YOUNGEST PRETENDER 'SUPER**BOY**.' HE OBJECTS VEHEMENTLY TO THAT NAME.

"HE CLAIMS TO BE A CLONE OF SUPERMAN, AND HAS MAINTAINED A HIGH PROFILE THANKS TO GALAXY BROADCASTING.

"LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE SO-CALLED ***MAN OF STEEL***. HE IS CURRENTLY BELIEVED TO BE A MAN IN AN ARMORED SUIT, AND NOT A ROBOT..

"... DRAWING THE GREATEST NEGATIVE RESPONSE FROM METROPOLIS POLICE IS--"

STOP. THAT ISN'T NECESSARY.

I'VE HEARD MORE THAN ENOUGH.

THINGS HAVE GOTTEN COMPLETELY OUT OF HAND.

THE NAME OF SUPERMAN WILL *NOT* BE TURNED INTO A FRANCHISE.

SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT THIS.

CONTINUE YOUR MONITORING, UNIT-12. CHECK EVERY SOURCE YOU CAN FIND--I WANT MORE IN-FORMATION.

YES, SIR.

I'VE GOT TO GET TO METROPOLIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

..."A BRIDGE NOT FAR"... OUR COVERAGE OF THE COLLAPSE OF THE HOBSNECK BRIDGE NOW CONTINUES... WITH GBS SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT TANA MOON...

BS

GBS

THE LAST OF THE BODIES HAVE BEEN RECOVERED. IN ALL, TWELVE PEOPLE LOST THEIR LIVES... A TRAGEDY BY ANYONE'S RECKONING... BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE...

...QUICK WORK BY SUPERMAN AND SUPERGIRL IS CREDITED WITH SAVING THE LIVES OF TWENTY-SEVEN PEOPLE AND SECURING THE BRIDGE FROM FURTHER DAMAGE.

SO, THERE'S NO SIGN OF THIS STINGER CHARACTER?

NONE. I'D HOPED THAT PART OF THE BRIDGE FELL ON HIM, LIKE IT DID ON US, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE GOT AWAY!

THAT MASKED CREEP BETTER ENJOY HIS FREEDOM WHILE HE CAN... 'CAUSE IT WON'T LAST! I'M GONNA NAIL 'IM... YOU CAN COUNT ON IT!

MEANWHILE, SERIOUS QUESTIONS REMAIN ABOUT THE ARCHITECT OF THIS DISASTER...

THIS IS... PERSONAL.

THERE'S NO NEED TO PLAY THE LONE WOLF, SUPERMAN. I HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH MR. STINGER, AS WELL.

LET'S YANK HIS STING TOGETHER... WHAT DO YOU SAY?

AHHH, I DON'T KNOW, BABE. DON'T GET ME WRONG, IT'S A KICK WORKING WITH YOU, BUT SOME THINGS I GOTTA DO MYSELF.

IT'S MY REP ON THE LINE HERE, Y'KNOW?

HEY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT...

...YOU'RE GOING TO BE JOINING THE TEAM LUTHOR FAMILY, REMEMBER? YOU CAN'T ASK FOR A BETTER REP THAN THAT. AND WITH LEXCORP'S RESOURCES, WE'LL TRACK DOWN THE STINGER IN NO TIME!

LEX HAS THE CONTRACTS ALL READY AND WAITING.

UH, YEAH... YEAH, RIGHT. LISTEN, ABOUT THOSE CONTRACTS...

HE WHAT?!?

WHY, THAT MISERABLE, DOUBLE-DEALING--!

LEX, PLEASE! WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. I KNOW YOU'RE DISAPPOINT-ED--!

DISAPPOINTED?! I'VE BEEN DOUBLE-CROSSED!!

THAT BLOODY WHELP ATE MY FOOD... HE COZIED UP TO YOU, DAMN HIS EYES! HE GAVE HIS WORD THAT HE'D COME TO WORK FOR LEXCORP!

AND NOW YOU TELL ME THAT HE'S SIGNED AN EXCLU-SIVE CONTRACT WITH SOME THIRD-RATE, LOW-CLASS SHLOCKMEISTER!

...THE YOUNG SUPERMAN TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT HE'D ENGAGED THE SERVICES OF REX LEECH AS HIS PERSONAL BUSINESS MANAGER.

LOOK! IT'S RIGHT THERE ON MY OWN BLEEDIN' STA-TION! AND YOU SAY "WHAT'S DONE IS DONE."

BLOODY HELL! YOU'RE AS DAFT AS HE IS!

HEY, I'M NOT HAPPY ABOUT IT EITHER. BUT YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE IT SO PERSON-ALLY.

I DON'T THINK HE MEANT TO SLIGHT YOU. HE'S JUST A VERY... IMPULSIVE YOUNG MAN.

HE'S A YOUNG FOOL!

YES...

...HE'S A VERY, VERY YOUNG FOOL!

LEX? WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?

HE'S A CLONE, LOVE... CHRONO-LOGICALLY NO OLDER THAN AN INFANT!

HIS SIGNATURE MIGHT NOT BE BINDING AT ALL! AND EVEN IF IT IS--

--I CAN STILL TIE HIM UP IN THE COURTS FOR YEARS. EVEN DECADES, IF I HAVE TO!

I HATE IT WHEN HE GETS THIS WAY!

PEARL, GET MY LEGAL STAFF UP HERE ON THE DOUBLE!

KANSAS. FIFTEEN MILES SOUTH OF SMALLVILLE...

WHY, THAT MISERABLE, TWO-BIT--!

JONATHAN, PLEASE! DON'T GET YOURSELF SO UPSET! YOU KNOW IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOUR HEART!

I KNOW, MARTHA... BUT IT JUST MAKES MY BLOOD BOIL WHEN I SEE THESE IMPOSTORS ON TV. THEY'RE NO MORE OUR BOY THAN I'M THE KING OF ENGLAND!

MAKES ME WANT TO GO ON TV MYSELF! I'D LIKE TO TELL THE WHOLE BLASTED WORLD THAT *CLARK KENT* IS THE REAL SUPERMAN--THE *ONLY* SUPERMAN!

I WISH WE COULD, TOO, DEAR--BUT YOU KNOW THAT WE CAN'T. IT ISN'T SO MUCH FOR US... BUT FOR LOIS AND LANA, AND ALL THE REST OF CLARK'S FRIENDS WHO WOULD BE PUT IN DANGER.

LOW TIDE

I KNOW, I KNOW.

BUT JUST *LOOK* AT THIS! THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT FROSTS MY BRITCHES...

...IT'S *MATRIX*--OR *SUPERGIRL* OR WHATEVER SHE CALLS HERSELF THESE DAYS. FIRST, SHE TOOK UP WITH THE LUTHOR BOY, AND NOW SHE'S MAKING COW EYES AT THIS YOUNG TWERP!

I KNOW SHE DIDN'T STAY WITH US LONG--

--BUT I'D HOPED WE'D BROUGHT HER UP BETTER THAN THAT! SHE WAS PRACTICALLY A BLANK SLATE WHEN CLARK BROUGHT HER TO US... SO INNOCENT.*

YES, SHE WAS SUCH A SWEET CHILD. IT BROKE MY HEART WHEN SHE RAN OFF.**

MAYBE IT WAS MY FAULT, MARTHA. MAYBE I JUST DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO RAISE A DAUGHTER.

YOU JUST HUSH NOW, JONATHAN KENT. WE DID THE BEST WE COULD IN THE TIME WE HAD HER...

*SUPERMAN #22. **ACTION #644.

"... IT'S JUST SUCH AN UNCERTAIN WORLD OUT THERE!"

BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA!

WASTE ALL THE AMMO YOU WANT, I WON'T GET A SCRATCH!

BUT I AM GETTING ANNOYED!

SO TELL ME, WHERE'D YOU PUNKS GET THE HEAVY ARTILLERY?

DON'T MAKE ME ASK TWICE!

YOU WON'T--

--SUCKER-R-

RRGH!

YES. YOUR OTHER WOULD-BE ASSAILANTS SCATTER LIKE THE ROACHES THEY ARE. NO MATTER... I FUSED THEIR WEAPONS' FIRING MECHANISMS!

THEY CAN BE ROUNDED UP LATER. BUT NOW, WE TWO MUST TALK...

WHAT IN THE--?!

SUPERMAN?!

...THERE IS MUCH TO DISCUSS.

I'LL SAY THERE IS. YOU... YOU LOOK AS THOUGH YOU COULD BE THE REAL McCOY. YOU EVEN **SOUND** A LITTLE LIKE HIM... BUT...

...YOU JUST **KILLED** THAT MAN! YOU COULD HAVE DISARMED HIM, BUT INSTEAD, YOU... YOU **FRIED** HIM!

WHAT IS YOUR POINT?

MY **POINT?!** LOOK, MISTER, I MET SUPERMAN ONCE -- AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE SAVED MY LIFE--!

WHAT DO YOU CALL WHAT I JUST DID?

AT THE VERY LEAST, I CALL IT **MAN-SLAUGHTER!**

FOR GOD'S SAKE, MAN, LOOK AT ME-- LOOK AT THIS **ARMOR!** I WASN'T IN ANY REAL DANGER! AND EVEN IF I HAD BEEN--

--THE **REAL** SUPERMAN WOULDN'T HAVE KILLED THAT PUNK! HE NEVER COUNTERED THE THREAT OF VIOLENCE WITH UNNECESSARY FORCE! YOU MAY **LOOK** THE PART, BUT YOU'RE JUST A COLD-BLOODED **FRAUD!**

FRAUD?! YOU... UNGRATEFUL... ARMOR-PLATED...

...**FREAK!**

"SO... UH... HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP? I MEAN... "

...GEEZ, I'M NOT DOING A VERY GOOD JOB OF THIS, LOIS.

IT'S JUST THAT I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU, BUT THINGS HAVE BEEN SO CRAZY--!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, JIMMY... THE WHOLE WORLD'S GONE A LITTLE CRAZY. BUT I'M GETTING BY... ABOUT AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED...

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...GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

YEAH. IT'S ROUGH. BAD ENOUGH THAT WE LOST SUPERMAN, BUT MR. KENT ...CLARK...

THIS MUST BE KILLING HER. AFTER ALL THESE WEEKS, HE CAN'T POSSIBLY STILL BE ALIVE. IF ONLY THEY'D FIND HIS BODY, AT LEAST THEN WE'D KNOW.

WELL, IF YOU EVER WANT TO, YOU KNOW, TALK ABOUT IT...

I KNOW, JIM. THANKS...

...I WISH I COULD TELL YOU. THAT'S THE MADDENING THING. THE PUBLIC THINKS THAT CLARK WAS BURIED IN ALL THE DESTRUCTION THAT DOOMSDAY CAUSED. I KNOW THAT HE WASN'T--

--BUT THAT'S ABOUT ALL I KNOW! ONE OF THE SUPERMEN... THE ONE WITH THE VISOR... SAID THAT CLARK WAS... "GONE." I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT HE MEANT BY THAT.

THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIM...! COULD CLARK'S PERSONALITY SOMEHOW BE STILL ALIVE... MAYBE BURIED DEEP INSIDE HIM? AND WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER--?

THWOOM

WHAT WAS THAT?!

SOUNDED LIKE A TRAIN WRECK! LET'S CHECK IT OUT--!

JUDGMENT DAY... IT'S JUDGMENT DAY!

GOT YOUR CAMERA?

RIGHT HERE!

MAKE YOUR PEACE...

...THE HOUR IS AT HAND!

HEY, WHAT'S UP?

THE GREAT SUPER-MAN IS RISEN AND WALKS AMONG US!

EVEN NOW HE DOES BATTLE WITH AN IMPOSTOR-- AN ARMORED SON OF SATAN--

"--OVER ON LARSON BOULEVARD!"

KTOOM

COULD ONE "FRAUD" SO EASILY DEFEAT ANOTHER? I THINK NOT!

FOOL! I COULD HAVE ELIMINATED THAT ENTIRE GANG, BUT I DID NOT. THEIR LIVES WERE BASE, MEANINGLESS...YET I WAS MERCIFUL. REMEMBER THAT.

REMEMBER, TOO, THAT I WAS MERCIFUL TO YOU, AS WELL!

SU-PER-MAN! SU-PER-MAN!

EH?

AH!

HEAR ME, GOOD PEOPLE! I AM INDEED THE ONE TRUE SUPERMAN... AND I WILL SUFFER NO PRETENDERS TO MY GOOD NAME.

I'M NOT PRETENDING--

WHOK-T

--I MEAN TO SERIOUSLY KICK YOUR BUTT!

FWAM

"THE ONE TRUE SUPERMAN," HUH?

THE MAN I ADMIRED *NEVER* SPOKE LIKE THAT! THE WAY I SEE IT, *YOU'RE* THE PRETENDER...

...JUST A LITTLE TIN GOD WITH A CAPE! OR MAYBE A METAHUMAN WITH MESSIANIC DELUSIONS!

THE ONLY... DELUSIONS... ARE...

...YOURS!!

YES--DESTROY THE IRON DEMON!

KTUNG

NO!! THE TRUE DEMON IS HE WHO HIDES HIS EYES--

--SMITE HIM WITH YOUR HOLY HAMMER, SUPERMAN!

BOTH OF YOU-- STOP!!

WHAT?!

YOU HEARD ME! SETTLE DOWN, YOU TWO, AND *LISTEN* TO ME!

I HOPE SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE'S DOING.

LOIS--?

LOOK AT YOU! YOU'RE BRAWLING LIKE PLAYGROUND ***BULLIES***, BATTLING FOR TURF!

MS. LANE, I INITIALLY SOUGHT ONLY TO STOP THIS IMPOSTOR FROM USING MY INSIGNIA!

YOUR INSIGNIA?! THE JURY'S STILL OUT ON THAT ONE! BUT REGARDLESS--

--YOU'VE BOTH DISHONORED SUPERMAN'S NAME WITH THIS SENSELESS FIGHT! YOU COULD HAVE HURT OR KILLED SOMEONE!

WOULD YOU WANT THAT STAIN ON "YOUR" INSIGNIA?

YOU... ARE ABSO-LUTELY RIGHT

I DIDN'T SEEK THIS FIGHT, AND I DIDN'T THROW THE FIRST PUNCH... BUT I GAVE AS GOOD AS I GOT... ALMOST WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT IT.

DEAR LORD, LOOK AT THE DAMAGE WE CAUSED!

THE WOMAN'S EYES... HAUNT ME! IT IS AS THOUGH SHE WERE TRYING TO LOOK INTO MY SOUL!

I... ALSO... REGRET MY ACTIONS. THEY... WERE PERHAPS... ILL-ADVISED.

I WILL MAKE AMENDS FOR ANY DAMAGE WE HAVE CAUSED.

WE BOTH WILL.

YOU KNOW, I NEVER LAID CLAIM TO THE NAME OF SUPERMAN. I WEAR THIS SHIELD AND THIS CAPE TO HONOR A MAN WHO GAVE ME BACK MY LIFE.

CAN YOU HONESTLY LOOK ME IN THE EYES AND SAY THAT YOU FIND ANYTHING WRONG IN THAT?

PUT IN THOSE TERMS... NO. I CANNOT.

I AM SORRY...

WOW... MAYBE THIS GUY IS SUPERMAN! LOIS SEEMED TO GET THROUGH TO SOME-THING IN HIM!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! DON'T ANY OF YOU MOVE!

NOW WHAT?!

I BEG YOUR PARDON, BUT IF YOU'RE WITH THE POLICE, I'D LIKE TO SEE A BADGE!

METROPOLIS

NAW, I'M NO COP! I'M A PROCESS SERVER!

THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE THAT YOU GENTS ARE IN VIOLA-TION OF TRADEMARK HELD BY REX LEECH ENTERPRISES. MR. LEECH'S CLIENT, AND HIS CLIENT ALONE, HAS RIGHTS TO THE SUPERMAN NAME AND INSIGNIA.

YOU ARE TO CEASE AND DESIST FROM ALL SUCH USAGE IMMEDI-ATELY.

GOT THAT?

NO.

GOT THIS?

HEY! MY PAPERS--!

THE FATE OF YOUR PAPERS IS THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES!

OGOD! Y-YOU WOULDN'T--? HELP!!

HAH! FRY THE MONEY-CHANGER!

HOLD IT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, BUT IT SHOULD BE SETTLED IN THE COURTS, NOT IN THE STREETS!

NO! HIS INSOLENCE DEMANDS PUNISHMENT NOW! UNHAND ME!

NOT UNTIL YOU COOL DOWN!

DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN HOLD HIM! BETTER GET HIM OUT OF HERE BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HURT!

SO MUCH FOR MY PEACE-MAKING EFFORTS...

"... WHERE WILL THIS ALL END?"

WHAT DOES IT *TAKE* TO MAKE YOU LISTEN TO ***REASON?*** YOU CAN'T GO AROUND FRYING PEOPLE WHO CROSS YOU!

NO ONE TELLS ME WHAT I CAN OR CANNOT DO! I AM ***SUPER-MAN!***

SORRY. THE HIGH-AND-MIGHTY ROUTINE DOESN'T IMPRESS ME.

NO? THEN PERHAPS *THIS* WILL...

HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

MERELY ADDING *MY* POWER OF FLIGHT TO YOURS WE SHALL ***SEE*** HOW HIGH AND FAST WE CAN GO!

NO! ***STOP,*** YOU IDIOT--!

MIGHT AS WELL ARGUE WITH THE WIND!

SUIT'S HOLDING UP SO FAR, BUT AT THIS RATE, WE'LL SOON HIT ESCAPE VELOCITY, AND THIS ARMOR WASN'T DESIGNED FOR SPACE TRAVEL!

HATE TO TURN HIM LOOSE WHILE HE'S SO OUT OF CONTROL--

--BUT I DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE.

GOT TO SAVE MYSELF... IF I CAN!

NO SENSE IN ***BOTH*** OF US DYING...

"...OUT IN SPACE!"

"<REPORT!>"

"<A BAND OF ASTEROIDS LOOMS BEFORE US, EXALTED ONE. THERE COULD BE SOME DELAY...>"

<I WILL BROOK NO DELAYS! ELIMINATE ALL OBSTACLES!>

<AS YOU COMMAND, MY LORD!>

<FIRING FORWARD DISRUPTORS!>

<SOON I SHALL AT LONG LAST HAVE MY REVENGE UPON THE KRYPTONIAN.>

<FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED, HIS LOVE FOR THIS PLANET--THIS EARTH--WAS EVEN GREATER THAN THAT FOR HIS NATIVE KRYPTON!>

<POOR LITTLE WORLD! YOUR DOOM WAS SEALED THE DAY THAT SUPERMAN REFUSED MY IMPERIAL ORDER.>

<I SHALL GRIND YOUR CHAMPION'S BONES BENEATH MY HEEL-->

"<-- AND CLAIM THE EARTH AS MY PRIZE! >"

COME ON, JOHN HENRY, GET IT TOGETHER!

IF I DON'T SLOW THINGS DOWN SOON, THIS RIDE'LL GET A LOT *HOTTER* THAN I CAN HANDLE!

GOT TO RIGHT MYSELF...

...AND USE THE JETS TO *DECEL-ERATE--!*

FLANG

HEY!!

YOU HAVE NOT YET FULLY PAID FOR YOUR FOLLY, "MAN OF STEEL!"

MY FOLLY?! HAVE YOU LOST IT *COMPLETELY?*

LET GO OF ME BEFORE WE--!

BAD OOM

W-WAS THAT A BOMB?

NO. SOMETHING *FELL--* LOOKED LIKE *PEOPLE!*

LORD, NO ONE COULD SURVIVE THAT!

NO ONE? FIND OUT NEXT WEEK IN *MAN OF STEEL* #24!

THIS IS NEIL WATTS, LIVE FOR WLEX IN COAST CITY.

THE WLEX NEWS CHOPPER IS CIRCLING THE IMPACT CRATER IN THE COAST CITY MALL PARKING LOT.

WHATEVER MADE IT CAME HARD AND FAST!

HOLY SMOKE! INSIDE THE CRATER ARE TWO OF THE SUPERMEN...

...THE MAN OF STEEL AND THE VISORED ONE WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE LAST SON OF KRYPTON!

MINUTES AGO THEY WERE BRAWLING IN METROPOLIS!

LIKE THOUSANDS OF VIEWERS I'M ASKING MYSELF... WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN CALIFORNIA?

AND WHAT IS THIS FIGHT ALL ABOUT?

I MUST KILL YOU, MAN OF STEEL!

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FOR APPARENTLY DEATH *ALONE* WILL CONVINCE YOU...

SHRAKT!

...THAT I AM THE *ONE*...

SHRAKT!

...AND THE *ONLY* SUPERMAN!

SHRAKT!

NO!

YOU WANT ME TO *BELIEVE* YOU'RE *SUPERMAN*--

--THEN *ACT* LIKE *SUPERMAN!*

PROCESS *SERVER* TRIED TO SERVE BOTH OF US WARRANTS TO CEASE USING THE *SUPERMAN NAME!*

YOU *FRIED* THE PAPERS! YOU TRIED TO FRY THE *SERVER!*

THAT'S NOT HOW *SUPERMAN* ACTS!

WHAK!

IMPACT!

SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

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penciller: JON BOGDANOVE
inker: DENNIS JANKE
letterer: BILL OAKLEY
colorist: GLENN WHITMORE
ass't editor: JENNIFER FRANK
editor: MIKE CARLIN

I PULLED YOU OUT OF METROPOLIS BEFORE YOU KILLED HIM!

YOU PULLED ME INTO SPACE AND CRASHED US HERE!

SUPERMAN WOULDN'T DO THAT!

DOESN'T HE KNOW WHAT I COULD DO TO HIM?

MY VISOR! GONE!

SO WHAT'S YOUR NEXT MOVE GONNA BE?

DESPITE THE PAIN THE UNFILTERED LIGHT BRINGS ME...

...I COULD, WITH A WAVE OF MY HAND, DESTROY HIM!

FRY ME?

FRY EVERY-ONE WEARING THE SHIELD, TILL YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT?

WHY DOES HE PERSIST IN THIS FOOLHARDY ATTEMPT TO DEFEAT ME?

I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT!

THAT WOULD DISGRACE THE SHIELD YOU WEAR!

WEE-OOO WEE-OOO WEE-OOO WE

CODE 3. WE HAVE A FIRE AT THE WILTON WAREHOUSE ON BETHESDA BOULEVARD ... POSSIBLE ARSON. -; SQUAWK ;-

CODE 20. WE HAVE A MAN DOWN 415 LESTOR. ; SQUAK ;

STEP FROM THE CRATER WITH YOUR HANDS UP!

THESE FLASHING LIGHTS... THEY BLIND ME!

BUT PERHAPS I HAVE BEEN BLIND IN OTHER WAYS AS WELL!

I HAVE FELT IT FOR A LONG TIME NOW!

THERE MUST BE MORE TO SUPERMAN THAN POWER!

PERHAPS IT REQUIRES COMPASSION... AND A HUMAN HEART.

AND THE WILLINGNESS TO RISK ALL FOR WHAT SEEMS RIGHT.

WHICH THIS MAN OF STEEL HAS IN ABUN-DANCE.

GO BACK TO METROPOLIS, THEN, MAN OF STEEL.

THAT CITY WILL BE IN GOOD HANDS!

THROUGH THEIR POLICE RADIOS, THE PEOPLE OF COAST CITY CRY OUT FOR MY HELP!

AND SUPERMAN... THE ONE AND ONLY SUPERMAN... MUST ANSWER!

METROPOLIS.

BA-WHOOM!

THIS IS TEAM LUTHOR! WE ARE AWARE OF YOUR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES! SURRENDER NOW OR--

OVER YOUR DEAD BODIES!

TOAST 'EM!

BWHAM!

BWAM!

BRWAM!

AAAARGH!

BAMM!

THEY TOLD US HOW BAD THE TOASTMASTERS WERE!

DIDN'T BELIEVE 'EM! NO WEAPON COULD BE THAT BAD!

LOB THAT GRENADE-- FAST!

GAS!

CAN'T BREATHE...

WHERE'S THE WOMAN?

THERE ...IN THE BOOTH!

WELL, WELL, WELL...

...LEX LUTHOR HAS SENT HIS LITTLE CALLING CARDS.

SHALL I DESTROY THEM FOR YOU, DR. BUNNY?

NOT JUST YET. SAVE YOUR ENERGY, GRAHAM DEAR.

LET'S SEE WHAT LITTLE LEXIE JR. WANTS WITH ME!

MY CONFRONTATION WITH THE LAST SON OF KRYPTON IS OVER...

...AND I'LL BE RETURNING TO METROPOLIS IMMEDIATELY.

BRING!

BRING!

LUTHOR SPEAKING!

TEAM LUTHOR HAS CAPTURED THE WHITE RABBIT? EXCELLENT!

THE "WHITE RABBIT," LEX? SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A CARTOON!

SOMETHING LIKE THAT, LUV!

HAPPERSEN, CONTACT W-LEX IN COAST CITY.

I'D LIKE OUR WLEX NEWS CHOPPER PILOT TO OFFER THE MAN OF STEEL...

...A RIDE BACK TO METROPOLIS IN ONE OF OUR LEX-FREIGHT JETS.

NO, I DON'T WANT HIM TO KNOW I'M INVOLVED.

THAT'S AWFULLY MAGNANIMOUS OF YOU, LEX...

...ESPECIALLY SINCE THE MAN OF STEEL REFUSED TO WORK FOR YOU.

IF I CAN'T OWN YOU, MAN OF STEEL, I WANT YOU OUT OF THE PICTURE.

PERMANENTLY!

GLOOMY WEATHER MATCHES MY MOOD.

MAYBE JEB IS RIGHT. MAYBE I SHOULD GET OUT OF METROPOLIS. GO OVER-SEAS.

MAYBE DODGING BULLETS AS AN INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENT IN SARAJEVO...

...WOULD TAKE MY MIND OFF--

--CLARK?!

MISS LANE. HI! DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

OH... RON! HI!

YOU WERE WORKING LATE TOO, HUH?

LIKE THE HAT? MY SISTER GAVE IT TO ME WHEN I GOT MY PROMOTION.

SAID IT MADE ME LOOK LIKE A CLASSIC NEWSPAPER REPORTER.

SHE'S RIGHT. YOU DO LOOK LIKE THE CLASSIC REPORTER.

GOOD COLUMN YOU WROTE ON THE CYBORG. YOU DESERVE THE PROMOTION.

CONGRATULATIONS.

RON HAS CLARK'S DESK...

...AND CLARK'S MAIL SLOT...

RON TROUPE

...AND LIFE GOES ON.

DOESN'T IT...?

LOIS?

I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU'D NEED AN UMBRELLA.

HEY, BABE, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

RON TROUPE HAS CLARK'S JOB...

...SOMEONE ELSE WILL HAVE HIS APARTMENT.

THE PHYSICAL PART OF CLARK'S LIFE IS... EVAPORATING.

HE REALLY IS GONE, ISN'T HE, JEB?

HE'S GONE.

BUT I'M STILL HERE. AND IF THE ONLY WAY I CAN HAVE YOU IS ON THE REBOUND...

...I'LL TAKE WHAT I CAN GET.

COAST CITY.

THANKS FOR THE RIDE TO METROPOLIS.

YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT GONNA GET IN TROUBLE FOR THIS?

NAH! I CHECKED WITH THE BOSS AND THERE'S NO PROBLEM.

JUST MAKE YOURSELF COMFORT-ABLE.

THIS LEXAIR JET WILL HAVE YOU TO METRO AIRPORT BEFORE DAWN.

"COMFORTABLE"? I ACHE ALL OVER.

I'M LUCKY THE KRYPTONIAN QUIT WHEN HE DID OR THEY'D BE SHIPPING ME HOME IN A PINE BOX.

METROPOLIS.

WELL, WELL! YOU'RE THE GOOD-AS-GOLD LEX LUTHOR II, AREN'T YOU?

AND YOU'RE THE LITTLE WITCH WHO LIKES PLAYING WITH GUNS.

THE BIGGER THE BETTER, DARLING!

BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU'RE NOT GOOD AT ALL, ARE YOU?

AND ALL THOSE NINNIES OUT THERE ... THEY HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE.

BUT WE CAN BE HONEST WITH EACH OTHER, CAN'T WE?

YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO PRETEND WITH ME.

AND I JUST LOVE IT WHEN YOU ACT TOUGH.

DON'T DELUDE YOURSELF, RABBIT. IT ISN'T AN ACT!

THEN IF I'M NOT DEAD, YOU MUST WANT SOMETHING. LET ME GUESS...

WORD IS, THE MAN OF STEEL TURNED DOWN YOUR JOB OFFER.

YOU TRIED TO BUY JOHN HENRY IRONS, DIDN'T YOU, HANDSOME?

YOU CAN'T OWN A MAN LIKE THAT! SO WHAT GOOD IS HE?

I'M GIVING HIM TO YOU, RABBIT, ON A SILVER PLATTER!

THERE'LL BE A CONFRONTATION, AND I DON'T CARE WHO DIES.

IF I'M LUCKY, THEY'LL KILL EACH OTHER. IF NOT, I HAVE A HOLD ON BOTH OF THEM.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING, LEX DARLING. TRUST ME!

FIRST I'LL DESTROY THE MAN OF STEEL. AND THEN, EVENTUALLY.. WHEN I'M READY...

...I'LL DESTROY YOU!

METROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

LEXAIR

THERE IT IS, JUST AS I WAS PROMISED!

THE LEXFREIGHT JET FROM COAST CITY!

AND THERE'S JOHN HENRY IRONS IN ALL HIS METALLIC GLORY!

BDOW!

GET HIM!

NOW, DR. BUNNY?

BDAMM!

SKRKK!

DAMMM!

BDOKK!
DKAM!
WHAT THE HECK?!
A WELCOME HOME PARTY! COMPLETE WITH NOISE-MAKERS!
BDAM!
SKRAK!
THEY'RE GONNA HIT THE FUEL TANKS! MOVE IT!
IT'S ME THEY'RE AFTER! RUN FOR THE TERMINAL!
AND GET THE COPS HERE, ON THE DOUBLE!
YOU GOT IT, MAN!
BA-DOOM!
AND NOW, RABBIT, I WANT SOME ANSWERS!
SKRAK!
BDOW!
DRAM!
BDAM!

KTHUNK!

WHERE'S THE FACTORY?

OOPH!

KRAK!

WHERE ARE YOU MAKING THE TOAST-MASTERS?

SMAK!

GOOD QUESTION, FLY BOY!

TOO BAD YOU WON'T BE AROUND TO LEARN THE ANSWERS!

IF I'M NOT, IT WON'T BE BECAUSE YOU STOPPED ME!

KRAKK!

HE DOWNED OUR ENFORCERS AND HE CREAMED DIGIT!

THERE'S NOBODY ELSE LEFT, DR. BUNNY! CAN I DESTROY HIM FOR YOU, NOW?

YES, GRAHAM! BY ALL MEANS!

DESTROY HIM -- AS ONLY YOU CAN!

HEY, YOU ARMOR-PLATED...

...ROCKET-BLASTING...

...RIVET-FIRING...

...HAMMER-SLAMMER!

LEXSAY FOOD MARKET RESTAURANT SUPPLY

YOU'RE GONNA BE NOTHING...

...BUT A FLATTENED PILE OF GOO!

KRAKATHOOM!

AND YOU'RE COOKED MEAT!

VROOOOOOOM!

ROCKET-BLAST... BURNED ME!

YOU'LL BE SORRY, FLY BOY!

I'LL MAKE YOU SORRY!

KRASSZH!

DON'T WORRY, DR. BUNNY! GRAHAM'LL SAVE YOU!

WHAT DOES HE MEAN?

YOU'LL FIND OUT!

LATER, MAYBE!

RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO ACCOMPLISH!

GLK GLK GLK GLK GLK GLK GLK

PALM ISAAC

VEG OIL

PART. HYDROG.

INDUSTRIAL

RARGH!

FREIGHT

THE OLD ABANDONED ORDSTER PLANT.

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU MANUFACTURE THE TOAST-MASTERS.

NOT BAD, IS IT?

THE OLD HYDRAULIC STAMPING PRESS THAT USED TO MAKE FENDERS...

...NOW POUNDS OUT CANNON HOUSINGS.

COME ON, JOHN, DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT.

YOU MUST HAVE KNOWN WHEN YOU INVENTED THEM...

...THAT THE TECHNOLOGY FOR THOSE GUNS IS LIKE THE DEMONS IN PANDORA'S BOX.

ONCE IT'S OUT, THERE'S NOT MUCH YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT, CAN YOU?

KEEP TALKING ...KEEP HIM DIS-TRACTED...

GONNA BE KINDA HARD TO SMASH THIS OPERATION, ISN'T IT?

EVEN WITH THAT GREAT BIG HAMMER!

IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, LOOK AROUND!

HERE. LET ME TURN ON THE LIGHT.

IN

KLIK

KRAK

RANG

A TRAP!

A SMART BUSINESSWOMAN ALWAYS *PROTECTS* HER INVESTMENTS.

THAT OLD *PRESS* THAT POUNDS OUT CANNON HOUSINGS WILL JUST AS EASILY POUND *YOU* OUT!

YOU REALIZE, BY NOW, THAT MOST OF MY OPERATION IS *ELSEWHERE?*

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO SHUT DOWN THIS *INEFFICIENT* OLD PLANT, ANYWAY.

I'VE HEARD *LEX LUTHOR* WANTS YOU, MAN OF STEEL.

I'D GIVE YOU TO HIM FOR A PRESENT.

BUT THERE WON'T BE ANY OF YOU *LEFT.*

YOU RECOGNIZE THE *BOMB*, OF COURSE. ANOTHER OF YOUR INVENTIONS.

I THINK I'LL PUT IT ON MY NEXT *ORDER LIST!*

NO!

ENOUGH!

HE'S BROKEN *FREE!* MY GOD--! HE'S LIFTING THE *PRESS!* IT'S SHAKING ITSELF *APART!*

THE *CEILING!* HE'S BRINGING DOWN THE *CEILING!*

YOU'RE PROLONGING YOUR AGONY!

THE BOMB WILL *BLOW* BEFORE YOU'RE OUT FROM UNDER THERE!

AIIEEEE!

BOOM!

BOOW! SKRAK! BDAMM!

ORDSTER MOTOR CO.

TOASTMASTERS ... OUT THERE IN THE DARKNESS.

THE BUNNY'S *RIGHT.*

THE WEAPONS I CREATED *ARE* LIKE THE DEMONS IN PANDORA'S BOX.

MAYBE I CAN'T PUT THEM *BACK*, BUT I'VE GOT TO *TRY.*

I WONDER WHAT BUNNY MEANT ABOUT GIVING ME TO *LUTHOR* FOR A PRESENT?

HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE ONE OF THE *GOOD GUYS.*

THE WHITE RABBIT HAS LOST.

A PITY, IN A WAY. A VERY ATTRACTIVE WOMAN.

BUT NO MATTER. THOUGH THE MAN OF STEEL HAS WON OUT OVER HER...

...I HAVE WON EVEN MORE.

I HAVE A TOASTMASTER. THE DESIGN CAN BE COPIED.

HER HENCHMEN SHOULD PROVE USEFUL ADDITIONS TO MY OWN FORCES.

AND I KNOW WHO THE MAN OF STEEL REALLY IS.

JOHN HENRY IRONS IS HIDING OUT... AND A SECRET OPERATION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT WANTS HIM.

IF I HAVE TO, NO DOUBT I CAN FORCE HIM TO MY WILL.

WHILE BEYOND THE ORBIT OF THE MOON...

EARTH IS BELOW US, MASTER. AS YET, THE HUMANS ARE UNAWARE OF OUR PRESENCE HERE.

EXCELLENT! STUDY IT WELL, MY CREW!

FOR SUPERMAN IS NO LONGER THERE TO PROTECT THE EARTH...

...AND YOU MAY WELL BE THE LAST LIVING BEINGS TO VIEW IT IN ITS UNALTERED STATE!

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK IN SUPERMAN #80!

IT IS A SOUND THE WHOLE WORLD WELCOMED BACK...
BUT, IN METROPOLIS IT IS PARTICULARLY SWEET.
IT BEGINS WITH A RUSH OF AIR--
--AND IS FOLLOWED BY THE THRILLING SHOUT:
LOOK! UP IN THE SKY!
IT'S A BIRD!
IT'S--

SUPERMAN

I'LL GIVE YOU ONE CHANCE.

DROP YOUR WEAPONS!

FREEDOM SQUARE ARMORY

:SKKKKEEE: EXTERNAL DAMAGE OF LEVEL NINE.

RE-CALIBRATING FIRE POWER. PREPARE TO RESPOND.

DAILY PLANET

...HELP!

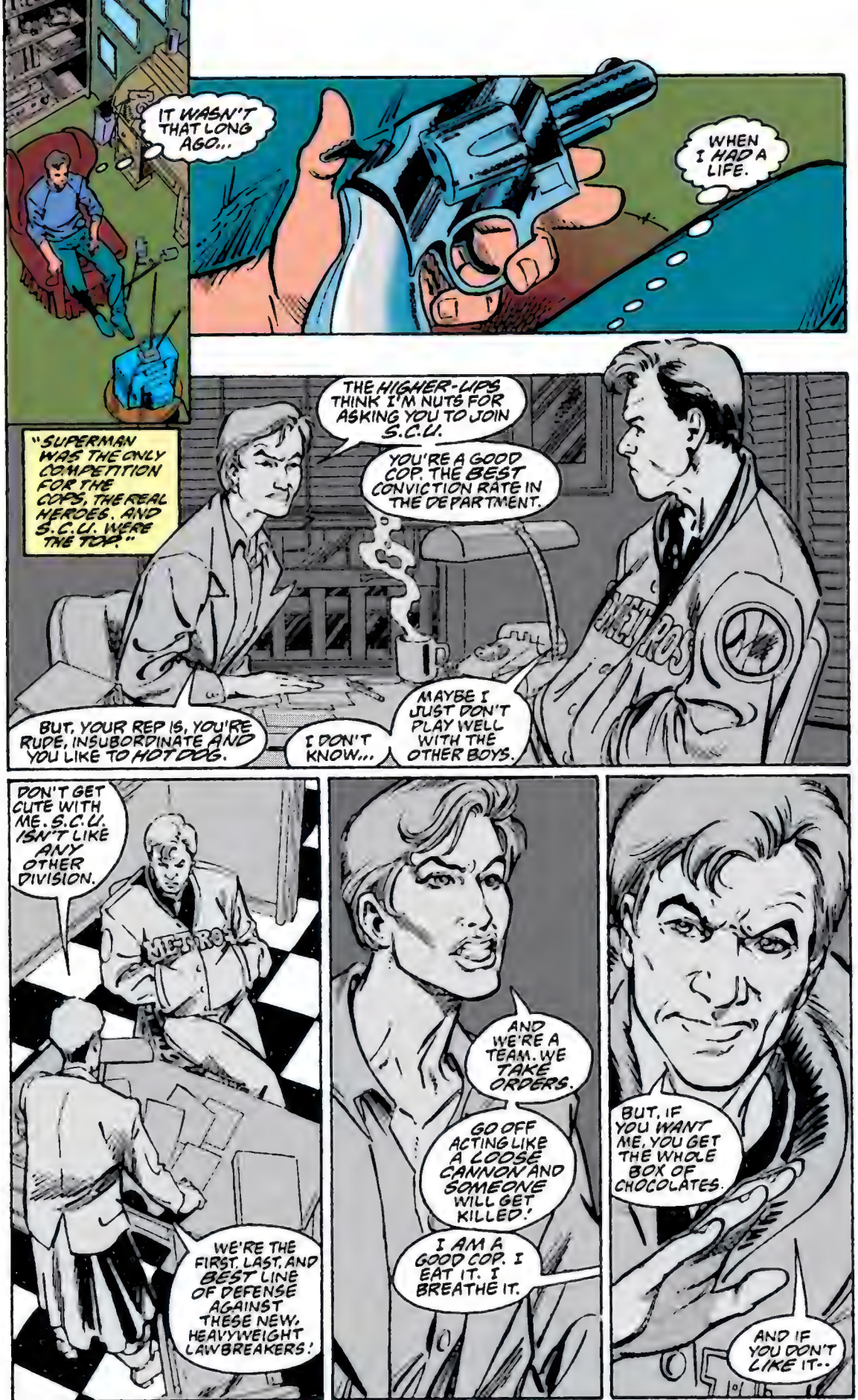
YOU WANT SOME HELP?

HERE!

NOW. LET'S FINISH THIS!

AWESOME!
...PICKED A HELLUVA DAY TO GET OUTTA BED...
ARE YOU GETTING IT? DORIS'LL NEVER BELIEVE THIS!
I'M GETTING IT! I'M GETTING IT!
IS THIS GONNA TAKE VERY LONG?
OH. PERFECT.
WEEOOWEEOOOO
AS IF THIS DAY WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH...
...HERE COMES METROPOLIS'S FINEST--
--JANITORS.
SCU
@#$*%
FAN OUT! I WANT THE CROWD BACK ANOTHER TEN YARDS!
THE ARMORY'S BUSTED WIDE OPEN-- I WANT EVERY WEAPON ACCOUNTED FOR!
SCU

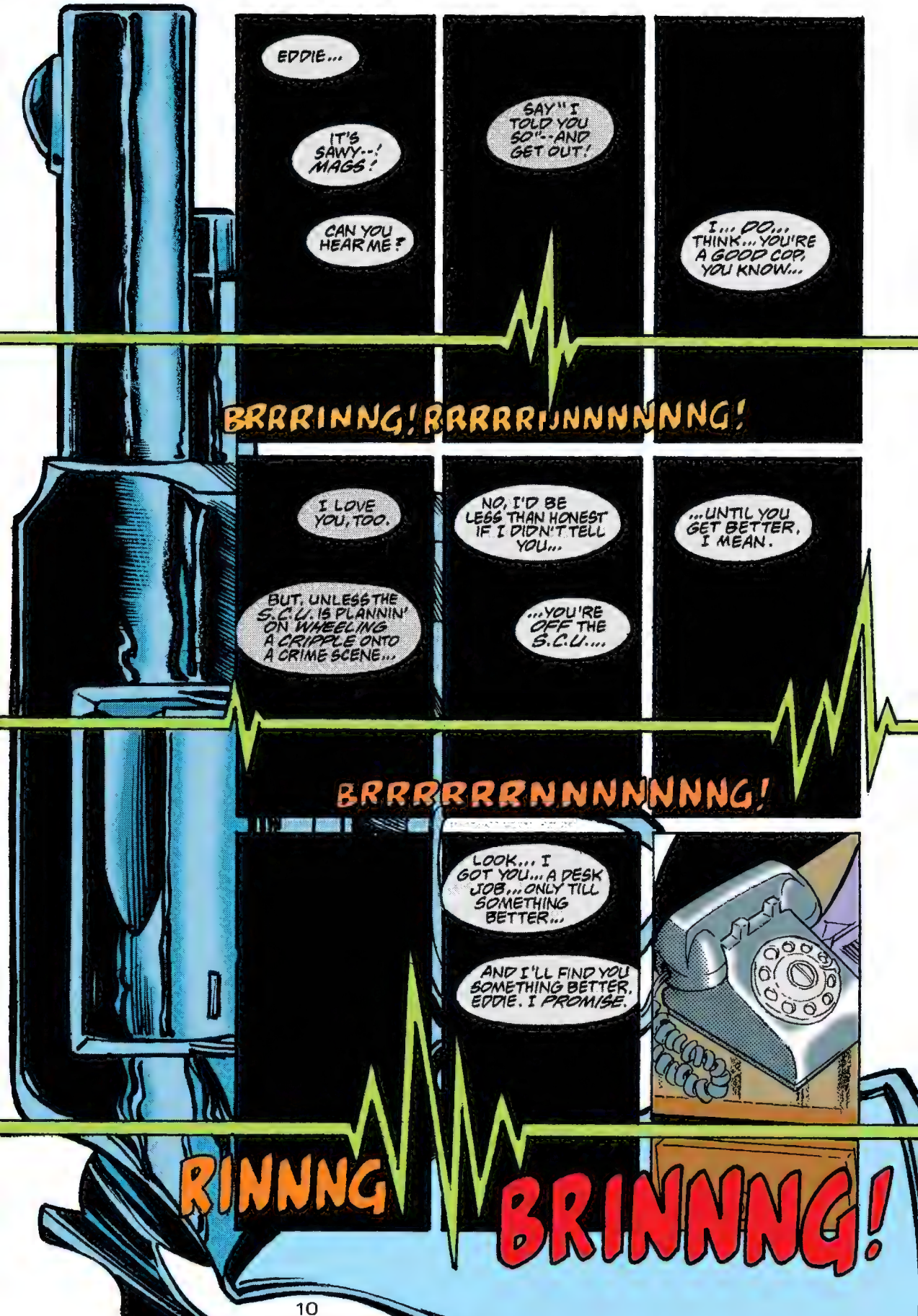
THAT'S ALL THEY ARE...
...GLORIFIED STREETCLEANERS.
NOT MUCH LEFT TO DO.
14th PRECINCT
14
...WHEN THERE'RE GUYS WHO CAN BEND STEEL IN THEIR BARE HANDS.
I OUGHTA KNOW.
METROPOLIS POLICE
WASN'T THAT LONG AGO, I WAS ONE OF THE STREETCLEANERS...
CAREFUL WITH THAT THING.
?
THEN AGAIN, YOU WERE NEVER MUCH FOR BEING CAREFUL.
CHARMING AS USUAL, MAGS.
WALKER
MURPHY
OWENS
TO STAIRS
EDDIE. IT'S "SAWYER." IT'S "INSPECTOR" SAWYER NOW. YOU CAN EVEN CALL ME "MAGGIE"--!
YEAH.
FINE.
WHATEVER.
LISTEN, LIEUTENANT, I WAS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD...
...THOUGHT I'D SEE HOW YOU ARE DOING...
EVERY DAY'S A BOWL OF CHERRIES.
SEE YA 'ROUND...
...MAGS.


IT WASN'T THAT LONG AGO...
WHEN I HAD A LIFE.
"SUPERMAN WAS THE ONLY COMPETITION FOR THE COPS, THE REAL HEROES. AND S.C.U. WERE THE TOP."
THE HIGHER-UPS THINK I'M NUTS FOR ASKING YOU TO JOIN S.C.U.
YOU'RE A GOOD COP. THE BEST CONVICTION RATE IN THE DEPARTMENT.
BUT, YOUR REP IS, YOU'RE RUDE, INSUBORDINATE AND YOU LIKE TO HOT DOG.
I DON'T KNOW...
MAYBE I JUST DON'T PLAY WELL WITH THE OTHER BOYS.
METROS
DON'T GET CUTE WITH ME. S.C.U. ISN'T LIKE ANY OTHER DIVISION.
WE'RE THE FIRST, LAST, AND BEST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST THESE NEW, HEAVYWEIGHT LAWBREAKERS!
AND WE'RE A TEAM. WE TAKE ORDERS.
GO OFF ACTING LIKE A LOOSE CANNON AND SOMEONE WILL GET KILLED!
I AM A GOOD COP. I EAT IT. I BREATHE IT.
BUT, IF YOU WANT ME, YOU GET THE WHOLE BOX OF CHOCOLATES.
AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT--

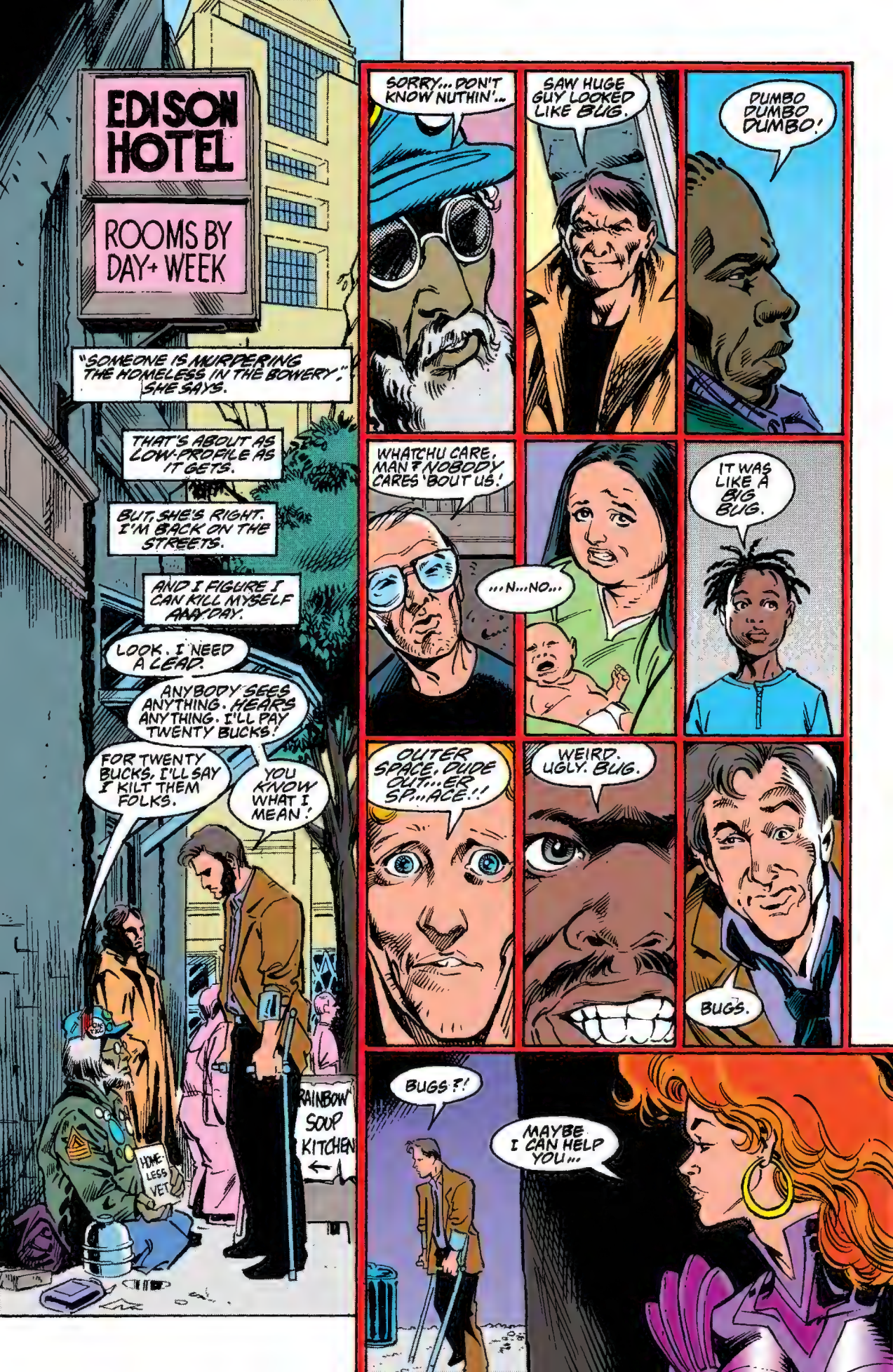
"--LET'S CALL IT QUITS RIGHT NOW."
"IT WAS A MATCH MADE IN HELL. SHE DIDN'T LIKE IT. BUT, SHE HAD TO ADMIT--
"I WAS GREAT.
"UNTIL..."
THIS IS SCU UNIT #5 HEADING SOUTHBOUND IN PURSUIT OF A--
--SOUPED-UP SOMETHING OR OTHER!
HE'S FAST. BUT... HE'S ALL MINE!
WALKER! YOU KNOW PROCEDURE. YOU WAIT FOR BACK UP!
NO. CAN. DO. MAGS.
AND DON'T CALL ME--
KLIK
WHATEVER YOU SAY--
--MAGS.
SKREEEE

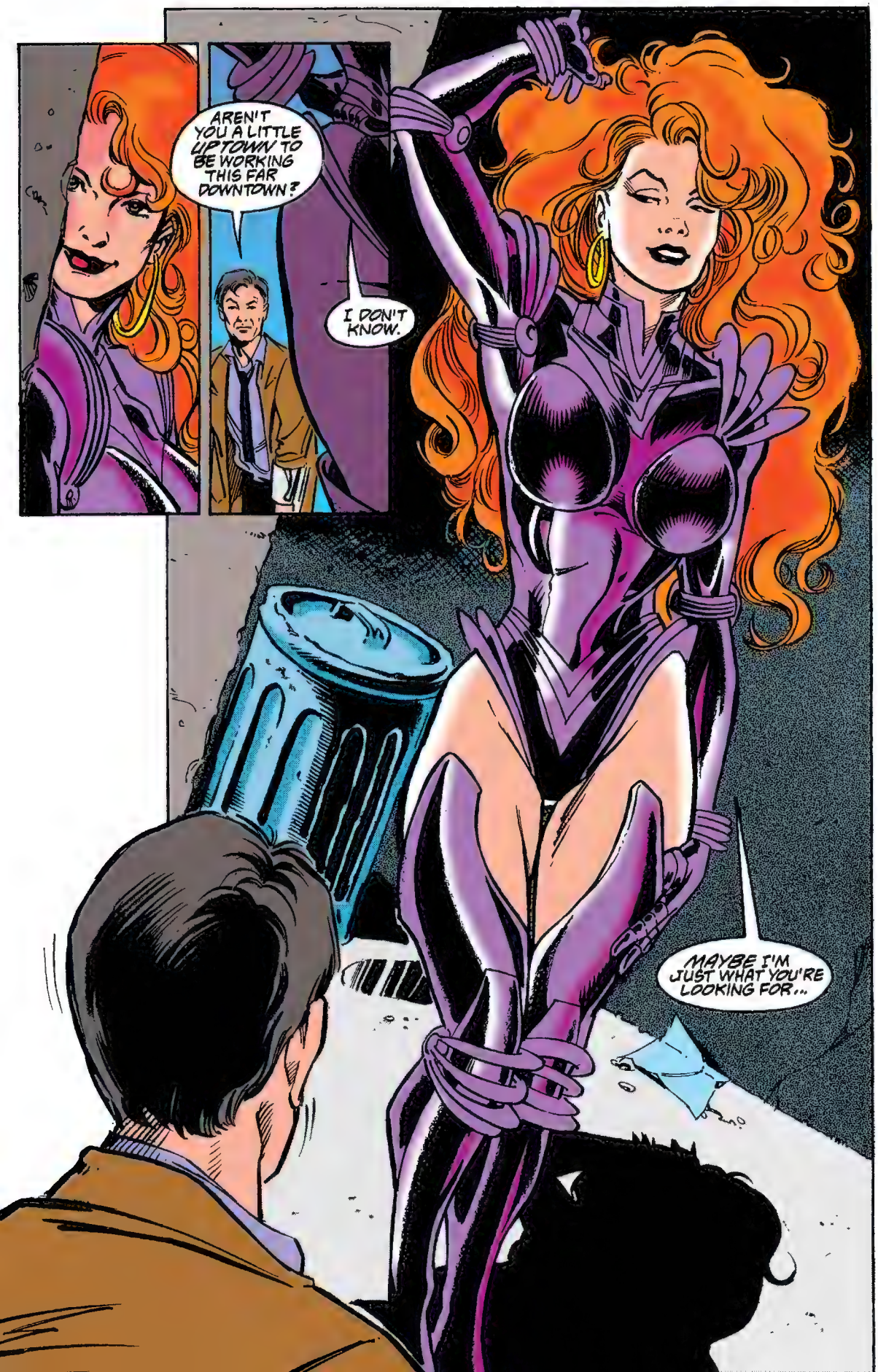
SSKKRREEEE
SCU
SCU
"GO OFF ACTING LIKE A LOOSE CANNON AND SOMEONE WILL GET KILLED!"
HATE IT WHEN SHE'S RIGHT!
KRAKOOM
TOOM
KRAKOOM

FEEL LIKE... BROKE EVERY BONE....
WONDER IF THE OTHER GUY MADE IT?
...OH...NO...
...ONE...SHOT...
THMP
THMP
THMP
THMP
THMP
THMP
THMP
THMP
BARROOM
PAKOW!

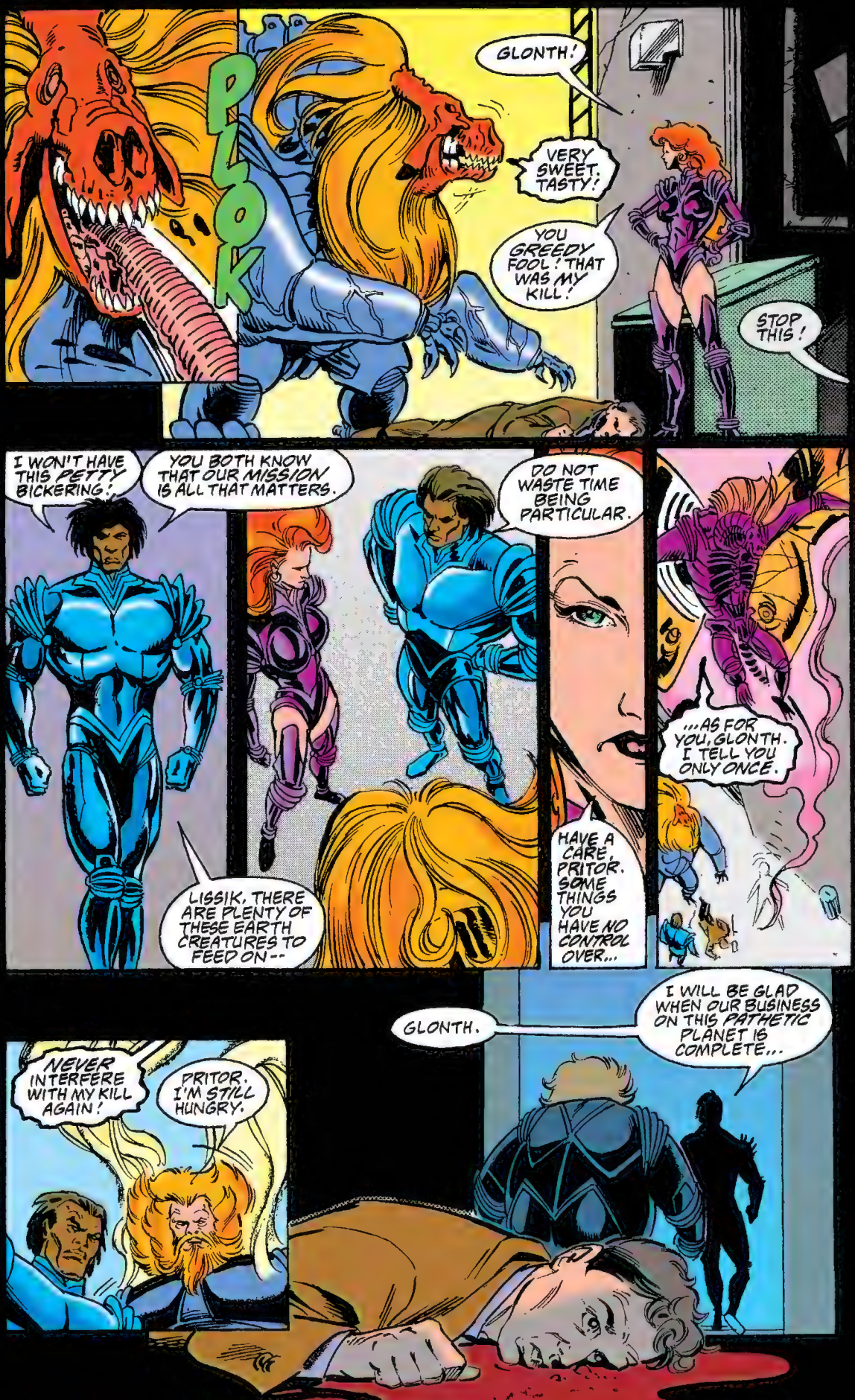

EDDIE...
IT'S SAWY--! MAGS!
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
SAY "I TOLD YOU SO"--AND GET OUT!
I... DO... THINK... YOU'RE A GOOD COP, YOU KNOW...
BRRRINNG! RRRRRINNNNNNNG!
I LOVE YOU, TOO.
BUT, UNLESS THE S.C.U. IS PLANNIN' ON WHEELING A CRIPPLE ONTO A CRIME SCENE...
NO, I'D BE LESS THAN HONEST IF I DIDN'T TELL YOU...
...YOU'RE OFF THE S.C.U....
...UNTIL YOU GET BETTER, I MEAN.
BRRRRRRNNNNNNNG!
LOOK... I GOT YOU... A DESK JOB... ONLY TILL SOMETHING BETTER...
AND I'LL FIND YOU SOMETHING BETTER, EDDIE. I PROMISE.
RINNNG
BRINNNG!

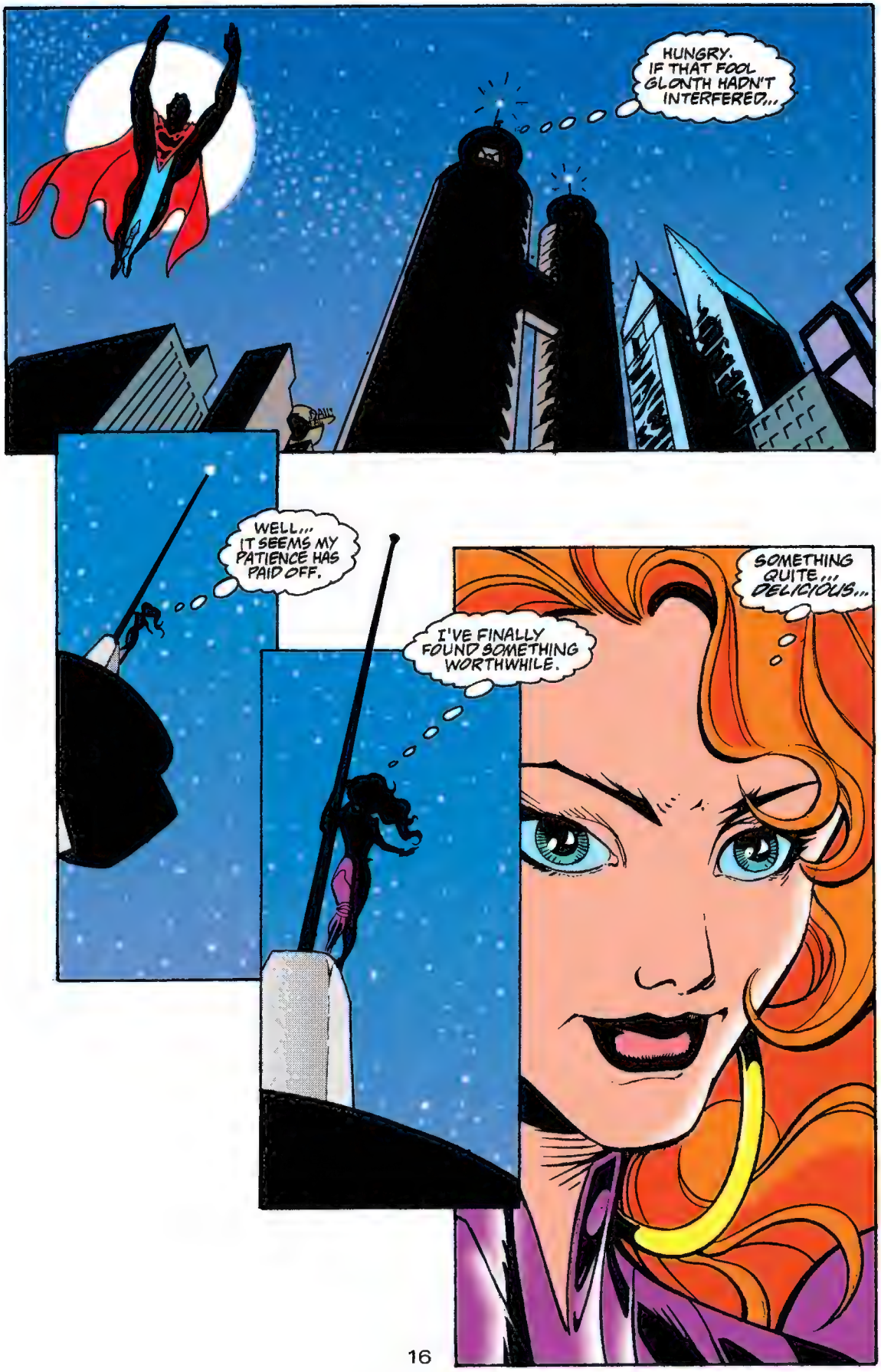
brinnng
CAN'T A GUY EVEN KILL HIMSELF IN PEACE?!
EDDIE? IT'S MAGGIE SAWYER.
TYPICALLY. YOU TOOK OFF BEFORE I COULD SPEAK WITH YOU TODAY.
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, MAGS?
YOU BUSY, EDDIE? YOU GOT ANYTHING GOING?
NO... NOTHING PLANNED...
GOT CAUGHT A LITTLE SHORT-HANDED AND...
IT'S A CASE, EDDIE.
DAILY PLANET
SUICIDE SLUM MURDERS CONTINUE
GRISLY CRIMES UNSOLVED
NOT HIGH-PROFILE... BUT IT'S HOMICIDE...
...IT'LL GET YOU BACK OUT ON THE STREET, EDDIE...
I'M LISTENING...


EDISON HOTEL
ROOMS BY DAY+WEEK
"SOMEONE IS MURDERING THE HOMELESS IN THE BOWERY", SHE SAYS.
THAT'S ABOUT AS LOW-PROFILE AS IT GETS.
BUT, SHE'S RIGHT. I'M BACK ON THE STREETS.
AND I FIGURE I CAN KILL MYSELF AAAYDAY.
LOOK. I NEED A LEAD.
ANYBODY SEES ANYTHING. HEARS ANYTHING. I'LL PAY TWENTY BUCKS!
FOR TWENTY BUCKS, I'LL SAY I KILT THEM FOLKS.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!
HOME-LESS VET
RAINBOW SOUP KITCHEN
SORRY... DON'T KNOW NUTHIN'...
SAW HUGE GUY LOOKED LIKE BUG.
DUMBO DUMBO DUMBO!
WHATCHU CARE, MAN? NOBODY CARES 'BOUT US!
...N...NO...
IT WAS LIKE A BIG BUG.
OUTER SPACE, DUDE OUT...ER SP...ACE..!
WEIRD. UGLY. BUG.
BUGS.
BUGS?!
MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU...


AREN'T YOU A LITTLE UPTOWN TO BE WORKING THIS FAR DOWNTOWN?
I DON'T KNOW.
MAYBE I'M JUST WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR...

WHATCHA GOT IN MIND?
I'M FAMISHED.
I'D LOVE TO GET SOMETHING TO EAT.
OKAY. I'LL BITE.
THERE'S A LITTLE ITALIAN PLACE NEAR HERE.
GOOD FOOD.
EVERYBODY MINDS THEIR OWN BUSINESS.
AND THE VEAL, IT'S--

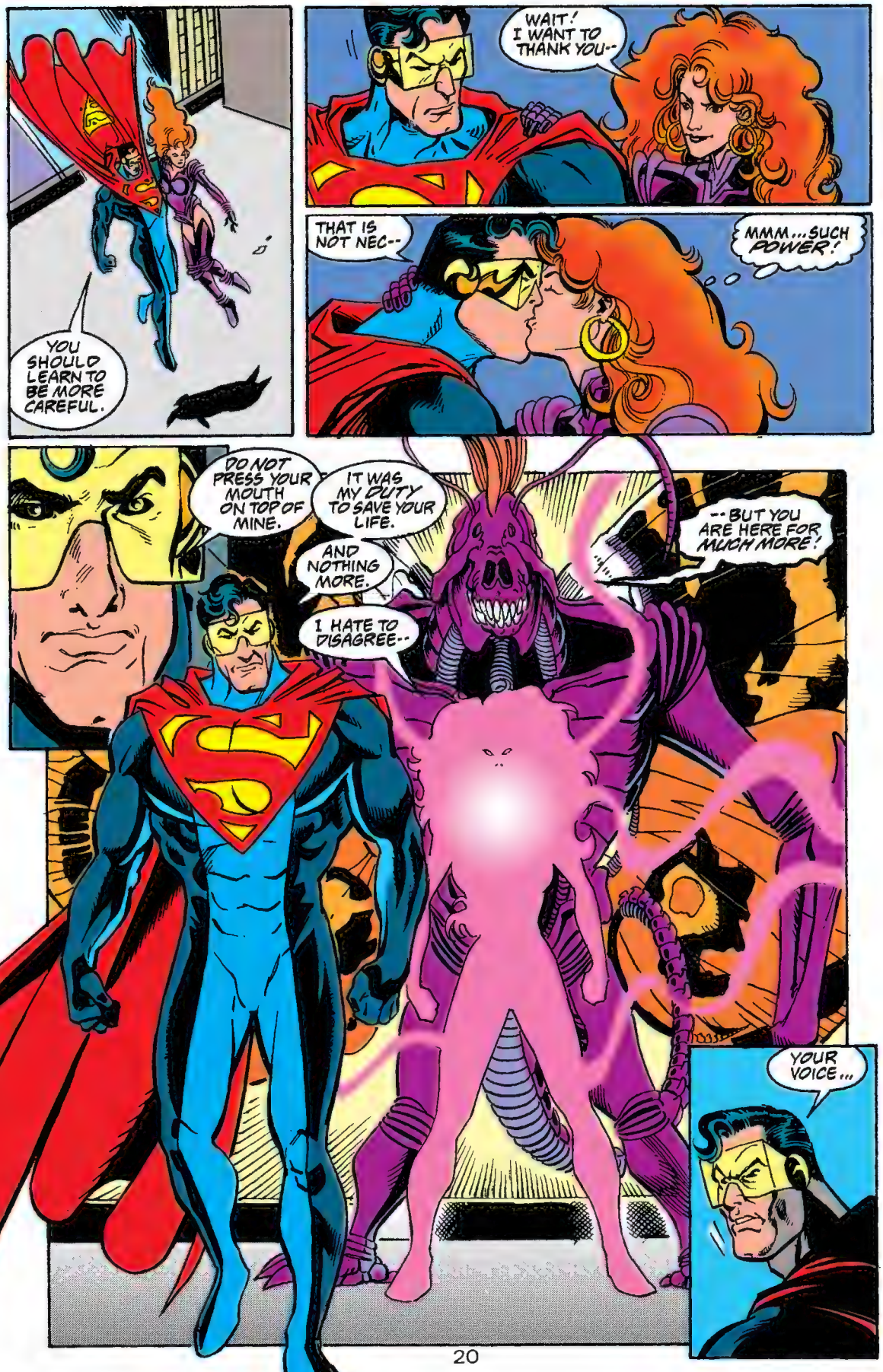

PLOK
GLONTH!
VERY SWEET. TASTY!
YOU GREEDY FOOL! THAT WAS MY KILL!
STOP THIS!
I WON'T HAVE THIS PETTY BICKERING!
YOU BOTH KNOW THAT OUR MISSION IS ALL THAT MATTERS.
DO NOT WASTE TIME BEING PARTICULAR.
LISSIK, THERE ARE PLENTY OF THESE EARTH CREATURES TO FEED ON--
HAVE A CARE, PRITOR. SOME THINGS YOU HAVE NO CONTROL OVER...
...AS FOR YOU, GLONTH. I TELL YOU ONLY ONCE.
NEVER INTERFERE WITH MY KILL AGAIN!
PRITOR. I'M STILL HUNGRY.
GLONTH.
I WILL BE GLAD WHEN OUR BUSINESS ON THIS PATHETIC PLANET IS COMPLETE...


HUNGRY. IF THAT FOOL GLONTH HADN'T INTERFERED...
WELL... IT SEEMS MY PATIENCE HAS PAID OFF.
I'VE FINALLY FOUND SOMETHING WORTHWHILE.
SOMETHING QUITE... DELICIOUS...

EVERYTHING SEEMS QUIET.
I MAY AS WELL RETURN TO THE FORTRE--
NO. MY WORK IS NOT FINISHED YET.
SUCCESS RATING 9.79. ESTIMATED FINANCIAL GAIN $ 1.273,498.2.8.
ACTIVATE ESCAPE ROCKETS. AVOID ANY ENCOUNTER WITH SUPERMA--
METRO ARMORED CAR

IF YOU WISH TO AVOID ME--
--DO NOT BREAK THE LAW.
OR YOU WILL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.
AAAAEEEEEE
IS IT ME, MURPHY?
OR IS SUPERMAN WORKIN' WITH A WHOLE NEW ATTITUDE?
SKRUNCH

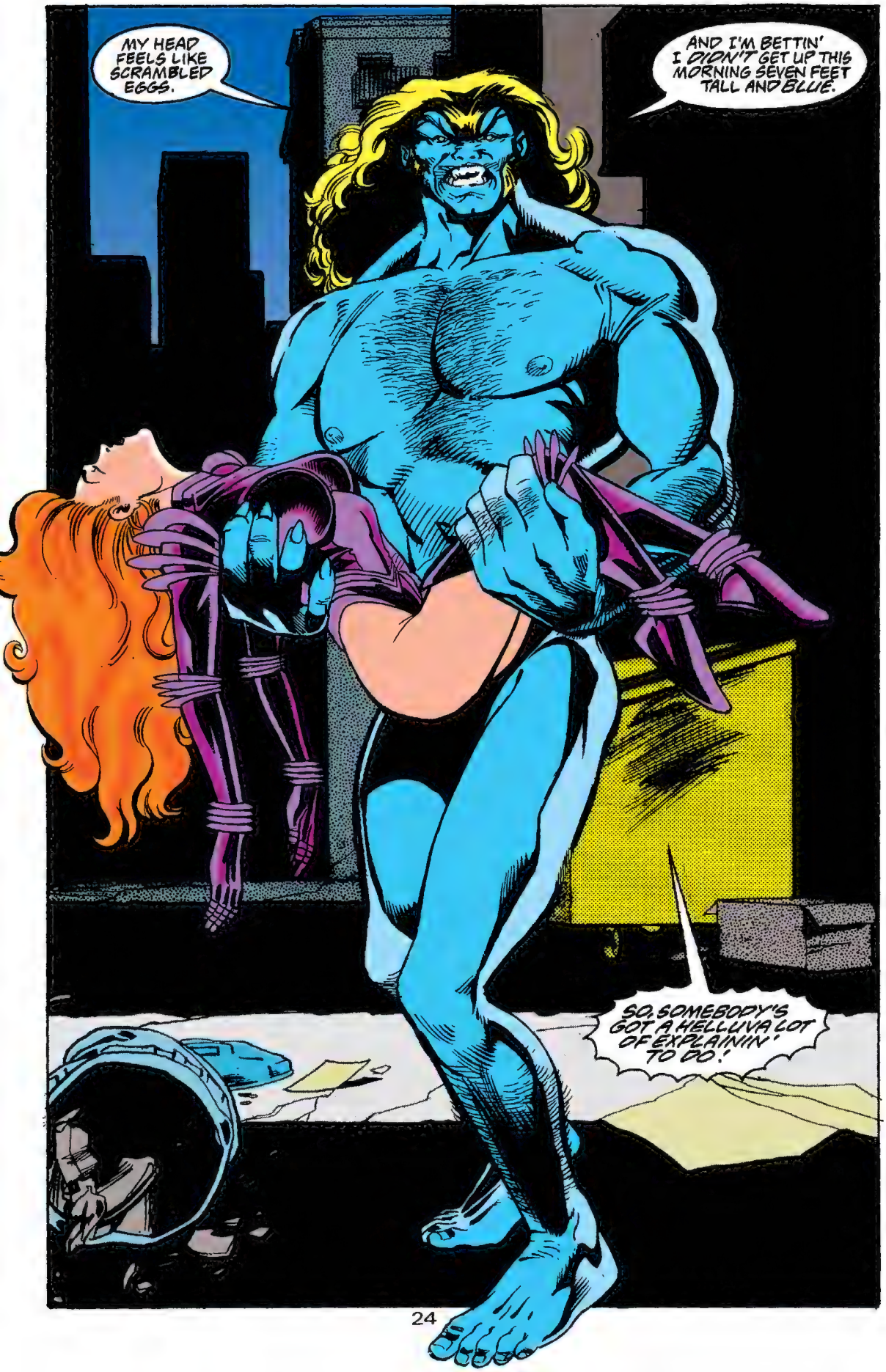
THERE HE IS AGAIN.
NEED TO DO SOMETHING TO GET HIS ATTENTION.
SOMETHING... DRAMATIC...
DON'T WORRY, MISS--
--I'VE GOT YOU.

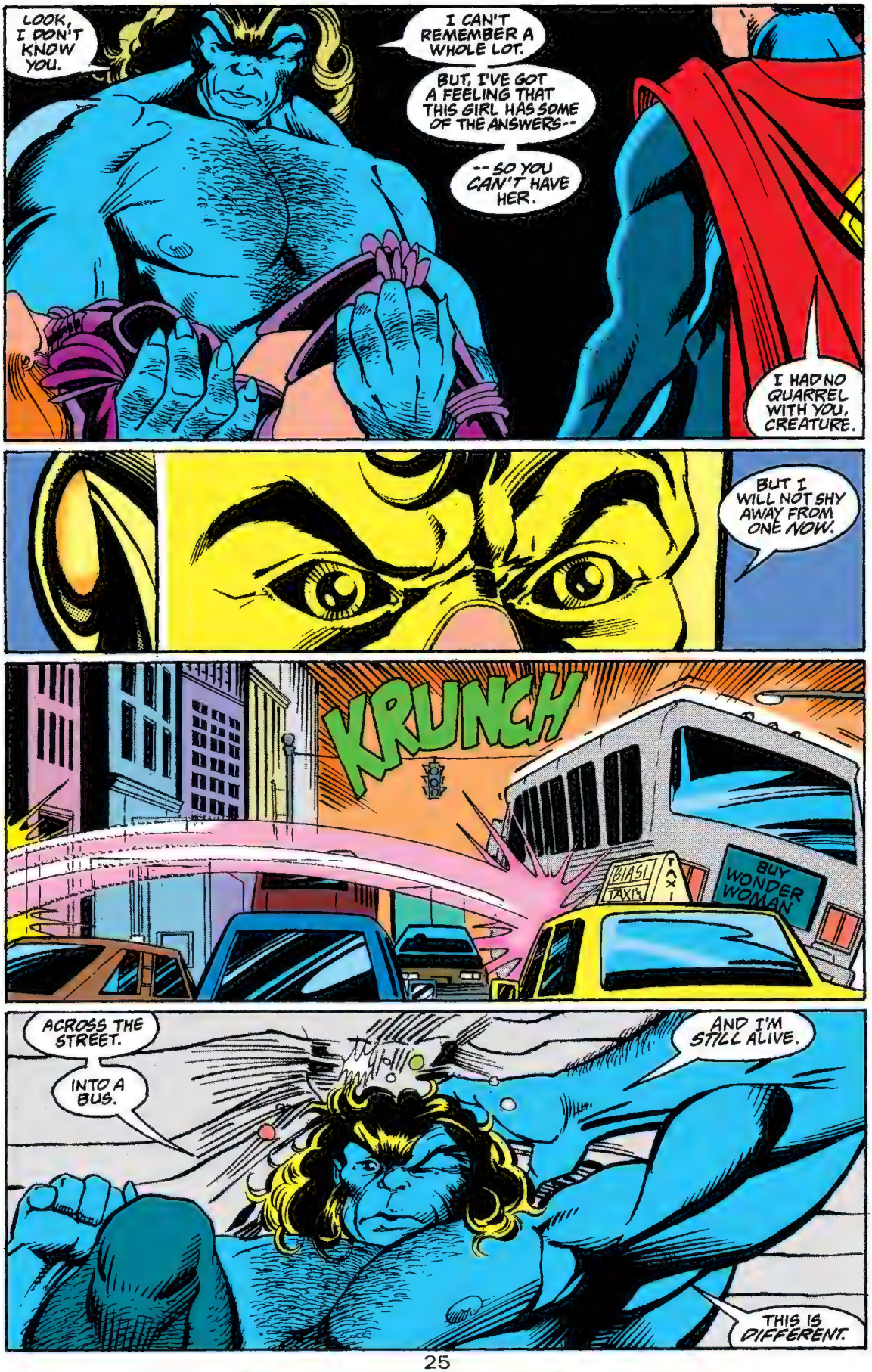

YOU SHOULD LEARN TO BE MORE CAREFUL.
WAIT! I WANT TO THANK YOU--
THAT IS NOT NEC--
MMM...SUCH POWER!
DO NOT PRESS YOUR MOUTH ON TOP OF MINE.
IT WAS MY DUTY TO SAVE YOUR LIFE.
AND NOTHING MORE.
I HATE TO DISAGREE--
--BUT YOU ARE HERE FOR MUCH MORE!
YOUR VOICE...

WHAT SORT OF MONSTER ARE YOU!?
THE SORT THAT KILLS YOU!
THWKK!
IMPOSSIBLE! NO MAN CAN DO THAT!
NO. NOT TONIGHT.
I AM NOT ANY MAN.
I AM SUPERMAN.
NOOOO! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO A WOMAN.
THE LAST SON OF KRYPTON CAN DO ANYTHING!
NO! DON'T THROW ME IN THIS FORRR--

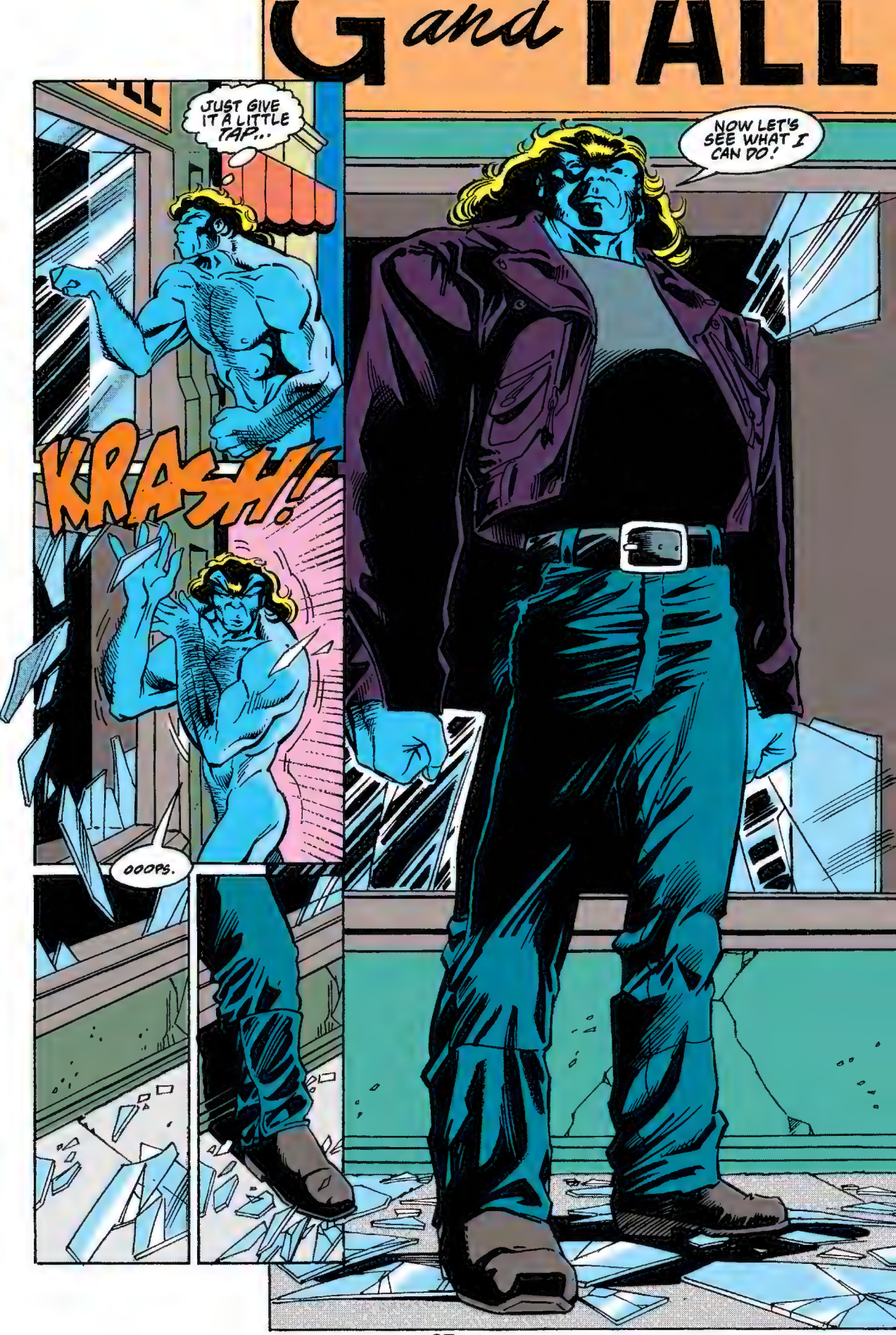
MAN, OH MAN, OH MAN, OH MAN!
MY HEAD FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN OUT WITH JACK DANIELS AND JIM BEAM.
--RRRM!
SEEMS FAMILIAR, BUT--
NOW WHAT!?
WHAT'S THAT-- SOME KIND OF CRUTCH?
SNAP!

OKAY.
A PRETTY GIRL FALLS OUT OF THE SKY.
THIS ISN'T GOOD.
AND... I DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHY, BUT--
--THIS,... LADY'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH ME.
I'VE GOT A BAAAAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
YOU THERE!
STEP ASIDE.
THIS WOMAN IS NOW UNDER MY AUTHORITY.
SEZ YOU.

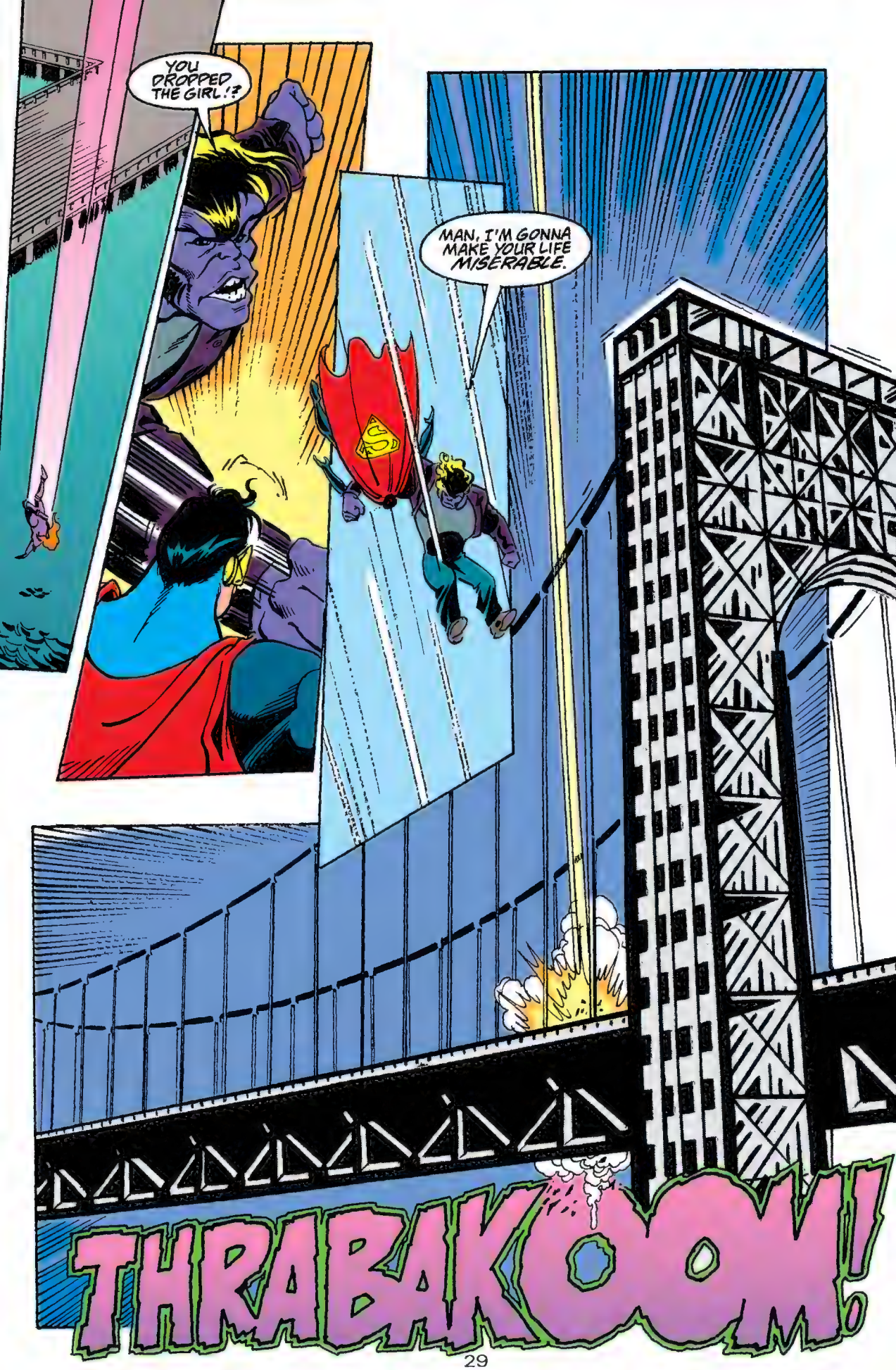

MY HEAD FEELS LIKE SCRAMBLED EGGS.
AND I'M BETTIN' I *DIDN'T* GET UP THIS MORNING SEVEN FEET TALL AND *BLUE*.
SO, SOMEBODY'S GOT A HELLUVA LOT OF EXPLAININ' TO DO!


LOOK, I DON'T KNOW YOU.
I CAN'T REMEMBER A WHOLE LOT.
BUT, I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT THIS GIRL HAS SOME OF THE ANSWERS--
--SO YOU CAN'T HAVE HER.
I HAD NO QUARREL WITH YOU, CREATURE.
BUT I WILL NOT SHY AWAY FROM ONE NOW.
KRUNCH
BIASI TAXI
TAXI
BUY WONDER WOMAN
ACROSS THE STREET.
INTO A BUS.
AND I'M STILL ALIVE.
THIS IS DIFFERENT.

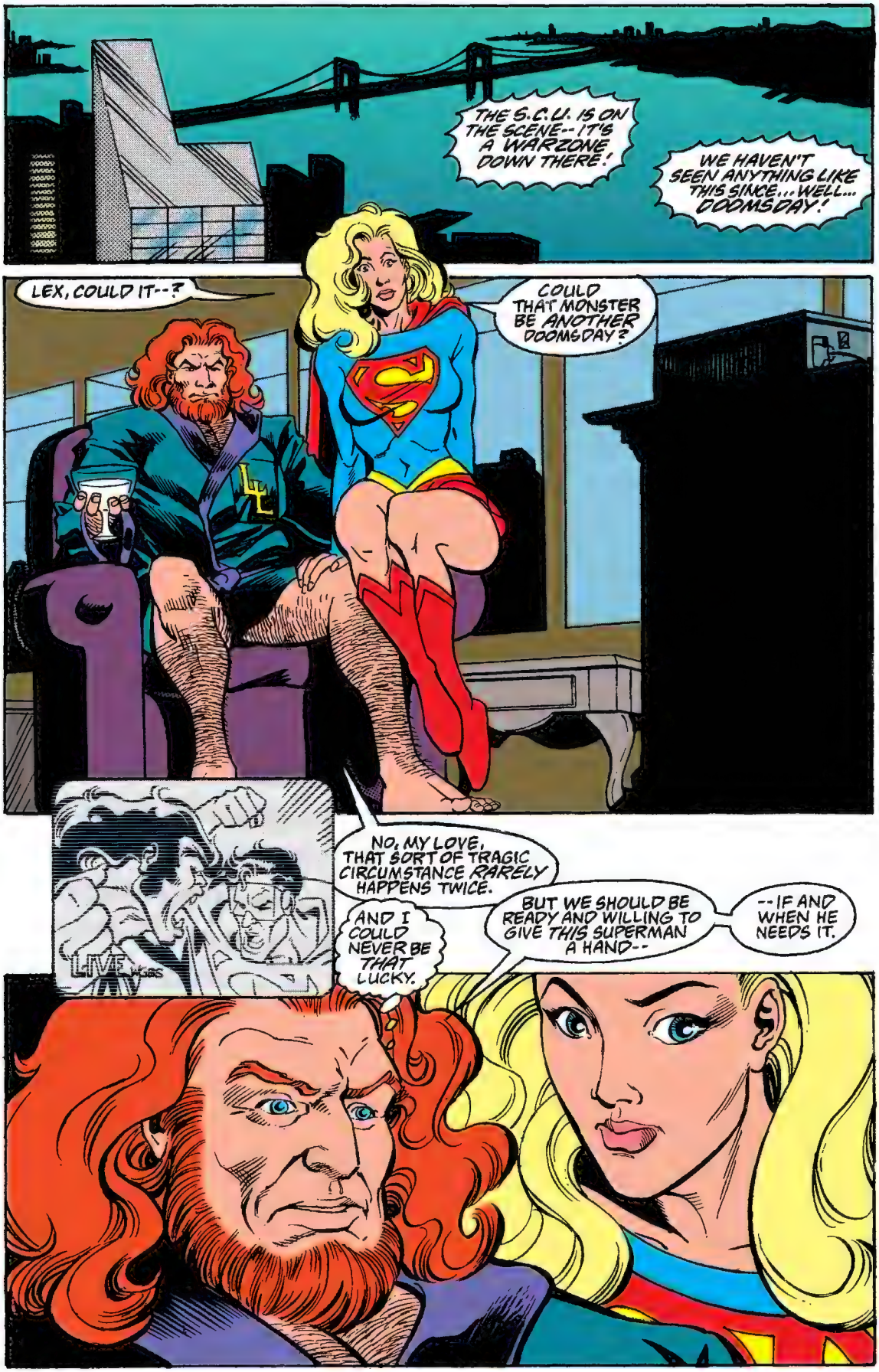
WHY DONTCHA GET THE HELL OUT OF THE WAY! I GOT A FARE!
WHY DON'T YOU--
--SHUT--
KUNTCH!
PLEASE DON'T KILL ME. PLEASE DON'T KILL ME.
--UP!
WHAT'RE ALL YOU PEOPLE GAWKIN' AT?
NEVER SEEN A SEVEN-FOOT NAKED BLUE MAN BEFORE?
NAKED?!
@#$%&!
TALL
I AM AN UGLY CUSS, AIN'T I?


G and TALL
JUST GIVE IT A LITTLE TAP...
KRASH!
OOOPS.
NOW LET'S SEE WHAT I CAN DO!

HEY!
FIGURES I'D PICK A FIGHT WITH A GUY WHO CAN FLY.
BUT MAYBE I CAN RISE TO THE OCCASION...
AWRIGHT!
IT'S PAYBACK TIME, PAL!


YOU DROPPED THE GIRL!?
MAN, I'M GONNA MAKE YOUR LIFE MISERABLE.
THRABAKOOM!

EXOIL
--OVER THE HOBBSNECK BRIDGE--AND IF YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE HERE--STAY AWAY!


THE S.C.U. IS ON THE SCENE--IT'S A WARZONE DOWN THERE!
WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS SINCE...WELL... DOOMSDAY!
LEX, COULD IT--?
COULD THAT MONSTER BE ANOTHER DOOMSDAY?
LIVE
NO, MY LOVE, THAT SORT OF TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCE RARELY HAPPENS TWICE.
AND I COULD NEVER BE THAT LUCKY.
BUT WE SHOULD BE READY AND WILLING TO GIVE THIS SUPERMAN A HAND--
--IF AND WHEN HE NEEDS IT.

MOVE OUT! TRY TO GET THE CIVILIANS CLEAR!
AND IF YOU CAN GET A CLEAR SHOT--
TAKE OUT THAT-- THING!
BEFORE IT TAKES HOBBSNECK BRIDGE OUT AGAIN.*
*SEE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #502

WHO THE--?
SCU
CREATURE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT CONNECTION YOU HAVE WITH THE ALIEN WOMAN--
--BUT A FRIEND OF MY ENEMY--
--IS MY ENEMY!
SCU
OH, MAN, I JUST KNOW THIS IS GONNA--
--HURT!

KRRRK-
KAKK-
KAKKKK
KUR-RUMF!
AXI
ALL RIGHT, MISTER, YOU'VE GOT THREE SECONDS TO SURRENDER BEFORE I BLOW YOUR PURPLE HIDE RIGHT OFF!
ONE
TWO!

MAGS?!
WHAT--
--DID YOU CALL ME?
OH HELL.
I REMEMBER--!
CREATURE!
YOU'VE CAUSED ENOUGH DESTRUCTION FOR ONE NIGHT.
OR FOR ONE LIFE-TIME!
BRAKK!

THIS ENDS NOW.
I CANNOT ALLOW A POWER SUCH AS YOURS TO RUN UNCHECKED IN THE CITY I HAVE SWORN TO PROTECT.
BE GRATEFUL, CREATURE, THAT YOUR DEATH WILL BE QUICK!
WAIT. WHOA. HOLD IT A SECOND!
NOBODY'S KILLING ANYBODY.
YOU'LL TURN HIM OVER TO US. NOW.
THAT'S THE ONE!

DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH THE OTHER ONE. PRITOR...
...BUT, MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT THIS "SUPERMAN"--

BRAHOOM
-- HIS KILL IS ALL MINE!
WHO THE HELL ARE THESE GUYS?!
SUPERMAN?!
THIS IS BAD.
THIS IS VERY BAD.
AND YOU GEEKS ARE GONNA PAY FOR THIS!

I REMEMBER NOW.
YOU LEFT ME FOR DEAD IN THAT ALLEY.
JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER KILLINGS!
K-K-KRAK!
IF WE HAD INDEED LEFT YOU FOR DEAD--
-- THEN, WE SHOULD FINISH THE JOB!

THIS IS GETTING OUT OF HAND.
EVEN IF WHAT I SUSPECT IS TRUE-- HUNDREDS OF LIVES ARE AT STAKE.
EDDIE...?
S.C.U.! ON MY ORDER--!
FIRE!!
CHOOM
THOOM
BEEKOW!
PTOW!
PRITOR!
SNAPT!
CHOOM!
THE WHOLE DAMN BRIDGE IS COMING APART!
RRRMMMRRRR

SUPERMAN!
YOU'RE NOT DEAD!
DO NOT BE CONCERNED.
THOOM
WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF!
UH-O.!
KRAK!
LEXOIL

THIS ISN'T OVER!
YES, IT IS!
I'M HUNGRY. BUT YOU'RE TOO MUCH TROUBLE.
I'LL SMASH YOU INTO LOTS OF PIECES--
--LICK THE BONES..
I DON'T THINK SO.

YOU PICKED THE WRONG GUY TO TRY AND KILL--
WHRANNG
476-AJF
KLUNTCH
ARRRRGH!
--YOU UGLY-SON-OF-A--
--BUG!

WHUNG!
SUPERMAN! THIS ONE'S FINISHED!
SO, NOW YOU CAN ARREST HIM OR WHATEVER IT IS YOU DO...
WAIT A SECOND! THIS GAS TRUCK WILL--
SSHZZAKK!

FZZZ
K-K-K
KOOM

NICE GOING! NOW THE WHOLE BRIDGE IS COMING APART!
THE ALIENS SEEK TO ESCAPE JUSTICE!
MY DUTY IS CLEAR!
NO! THERE ARE PEOPLE'S LIVES AT STAKE! COPS! CIVILIANS! I CAN'T DO IT ALONE!
EVEN ONE LIFE IS WORTH SAVING! HELP ME!

I WILL HELP YOU, CREATURE.
SSHZAKK!
ALL RIGHT
BUT, YOU GOTTA STOP CALLIN' ME THAT!
WRANG!
SHZAKK!
NICE JOB
INDEED. IT WAS--
--"NICE."

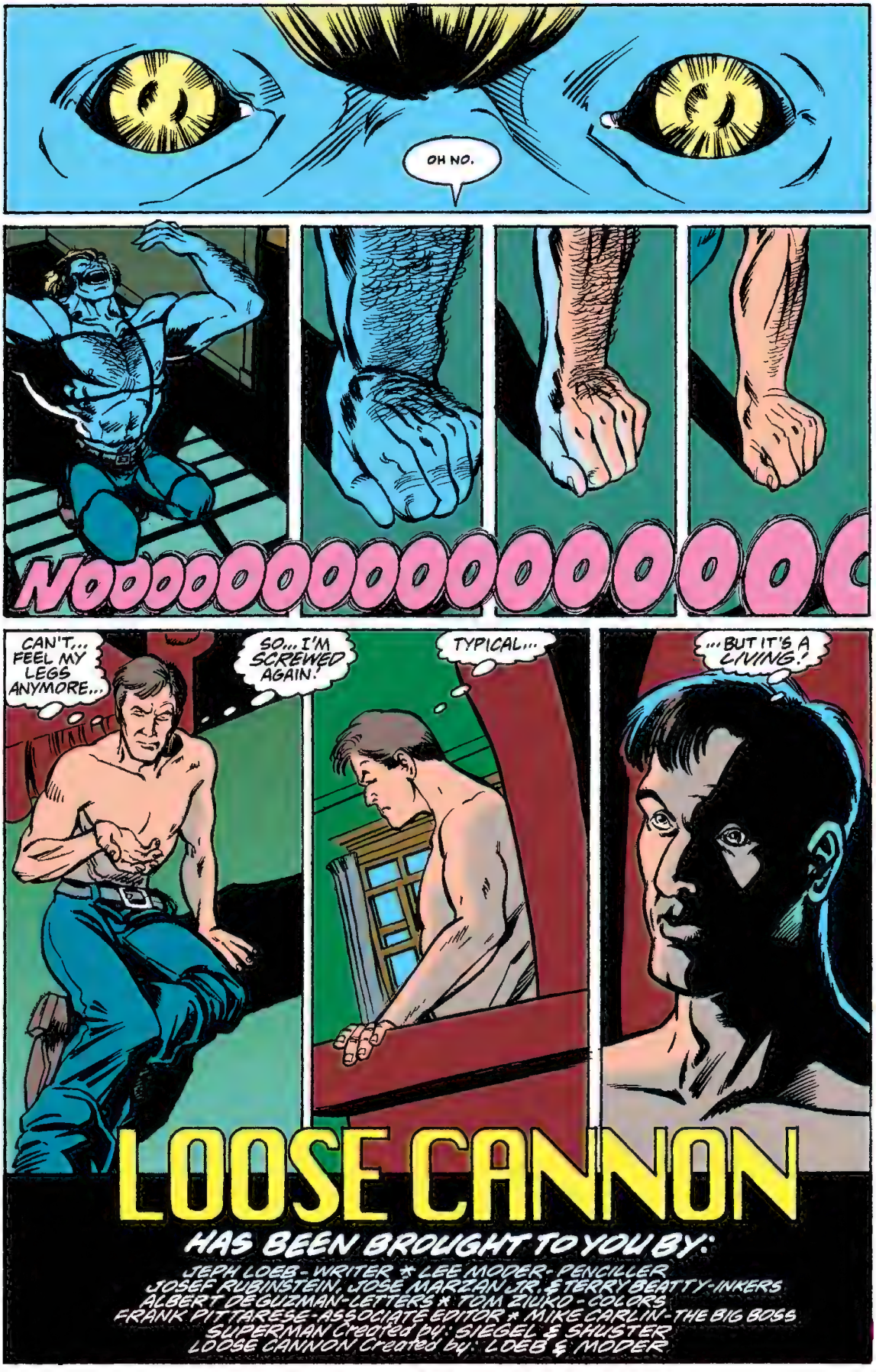
NICE?! WHAT ARE WE SAYING!?
WE JUST SAVED-- EVERYBODY!
THAT AT LEAST DESERVES A HIGH-FIVE!
A WHAT?!
OKAY. THEN, SHAKE!
AGAIN...
...THERE IS THIS NEED TO TOUCH.
C'MON, PAL, PUT IT THERE.
PAL?
SURE, EVEN SUPERMAN'S GOTTA HAVE FRIENDS.
NO... BUT...

...MAYBE IT IS TIME...
FRIEND.

I... JUST SHOOK SUPERMAN'S HAND...!
...GO TEN ROUNDS WITH SUPERMAN...
SO, WHAT'S YOUR STORY? YOU COME OUT OF NOWHERE...
...AND ANOTHER TEN WITH THE UGLY BUG BALL...
...CAUSE MILLIONS IN DAMAGE...
...YOU CHANGE FROM BLUE TO PURPLE TO RED-- DEPENDING ON HOW YOU'RE FEELING...
...MAKING YOU "THE MOOD RING" OF THE SUPERHERO SET.
AND AFTER ALL THAT WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF!?
I'M STARVIN'. I'M GONNA GO GET ABOUT A DOZEN CHEESEBURGERS.
WAIT A SECOND!
JUST WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
SCU

ME...? I'M JUST A--
-LOOSE CANNON!

WONDER IF I SHOULD TELL MAGS?
I'M GONNA HAVE TO LET HER KNOW I THINK I SOLVED THOSE SUICIDE SLUM HOMICIDES.
KCCHK!
I GOT A FEW MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS.
DUNT
SNAP
MAN, WHAT A NIGHT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SAYING THIS--
-- BUT IT'S GREAT TO BE ALIVE!
THAT REMINDS ME...
SUICIDE SLUM MURDERS
GRISLY CRIMES GO UNSOLVED
STUPID, REALLY. EVEN THINKING ABOUT KILLING YOURSELF.
JUST BECAUSE ALL YOUR YESTERDAYS SUCK...
...YOU SHOULDN'T STOP TOMORROW.
P-KOW
'CAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT IT'LL BRING!


OH NO.
NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO
CAN'T... FEEL MY LEGS ANYMORE...
SO... I'M SCREWED AGAIN.
TYPICAL...
...BUT IT'S A LIVING!
LOOSE CANNON
HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
JEPH LOEB - WRITER * LEE MODER - PENCILLER
JOSEF RUBINSTEIN, JOSE MARZAN JR. & TERRY BEATTY - INKERS
ALBERT DE GUZMAN - LETTERS * TOM ZIUKO - COLORS
FRANK PITTARESE - ASSOCIATE EDITOR * MIKE CARLIN - THE BIG BOSS
SUPERMAN Created by: SIEGEL & SHUSTER
LOOSE CANNON Created by: LOEB & MODER

YOU HAUNT MY NIGHTS, GENTLEMEN.

YOUR MYSTERIOUS PRESENCE GROWS WITH EACH PASSING DAY.

MORE QUESTIONS, FEWER ANSWERS.

A YOUNG BOY, AN AVENGING SEEKER OF JUSTICE, A MAN OF THE STREETS AND A CYBERNETIC PRETENDER TO THE THRONE.

I CAN'T GET YOU OUT OF MY MIND-- OUT OF MY DREAMS-- UNTIL I PROVE YOU LIARS.

LEX! WE'RE GETTING SOME INCREDIBLE PICTURES FROM OUR ORBITING LEXSAT COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE!

I'LL GIVE YOU THE FEED AND YOU CAN SEE IT FOR YOURSELF!

INCREDIBLE!

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G-8546

SCANNERS SHOW WE'VE BEEN DETECTED, LORD!

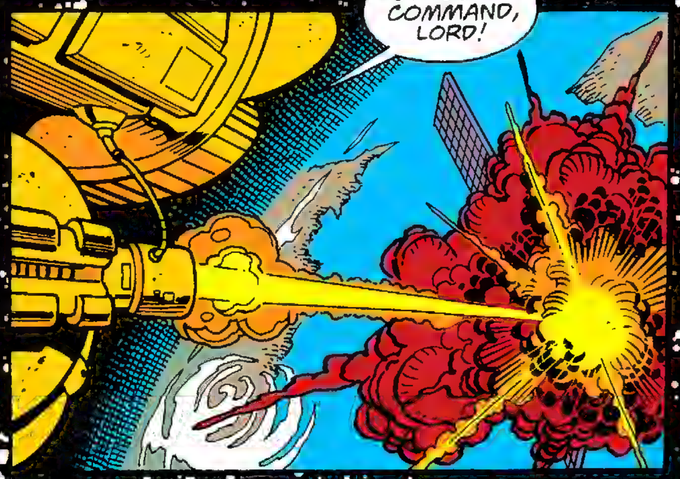
ONE OF THEIR ORBITING DEVICES HAS ALERTED THEM TO OUR PRESENCE!

DESTROY IT! WE WANT THEM TO KNOW AS LITTLE OF US AS POSSIBLE!

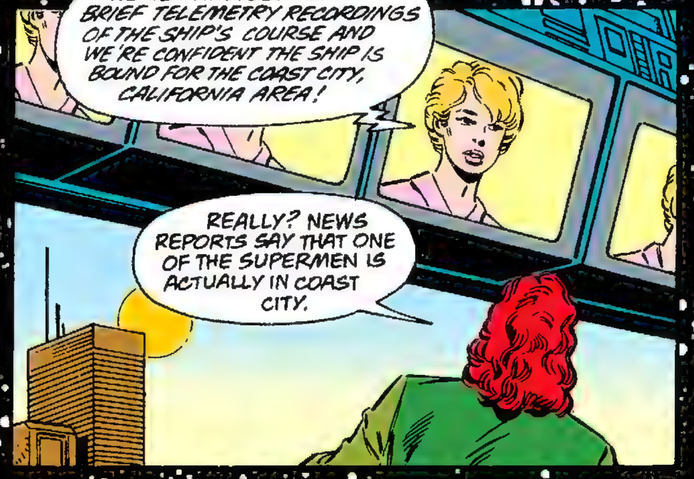
DEADLY ALLIANCE

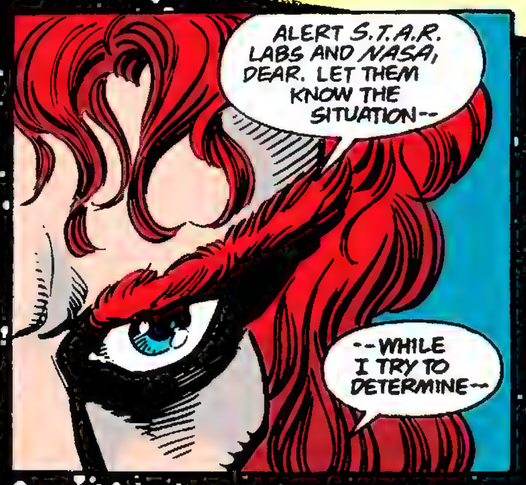
DAN JURGENS • story & art
BRETT BREEDING • finished art
JOHN COSTANZA • letterer
GLENN WHITMORE • colorist
JENNIFER FRANK • asst. editor
MIKE CARLIN • editor

SUPERMAN created by SIEGEL & SHUSTER



GONE! I CAUGHT ONLY A GLIMPSE--
--BUT THAT WAS ALL I NEEDED TO SEE THAT THAT VESSEL IS INDESCRIBABLY HUGE! AND I DOUBT ITS INTENTIONS ARE BENEVOLENT!


WE'VE ANALYZED OUR BRIEF TELEMETRY RECORDINGS OF THE SHIP'S COURSE AND WE'RE CONFIDENT THE SHIP IS BOUND FOR THE COAST CITY, CALIFORNIA AREA!
REALLY? NEWS REPORTS SAY THAT ONE OF THE SUPERMEN IS ACTUALLY IN COAST CITY.



"--WHAT FATE AWAITS COAST CITY."

CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR HELPING US PUT OUT THIS BLAZE, SUPERMAN!

THERE WERE A LOT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS IN THAT FERRIS AIRCRAFT WAREHOUSE! GOOD THING YOU WERE AROUND.

NO REASON YOU PEOPLE SHOULD TAKE THE RISK WHEN I'M AROUND.

BUT I'LL HAVE TO GO. COAST CITY IS NICE BUT METROPOLIS IS HOME.

HEY, CHECK OUT THOSE LIGHTS! SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE AN AIRPLANE...

LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE STAYING.

IT ISN'T! WE JUST GOT A FLASH ALERT FROM NASA THAT REPORTS AN ALIEN CRAFT HEADED THIS WAY!

GLAD TO HEAR IT, SUPERMAN! GREEN LANTERN ISN'T AROUND THESE DAYS SO WE'LL TAKE WHATEVER PROTECTION WE CAN GET!

LET THEM COME.

IF THEY'RE LOOKING FOR PEACE, FINE. IF NOT--

--THEY'LL REGRET THE DAY I LEFT--

"--METROPOLIS."

WHITE HOUSE SECURITY TO SUPERMAN! WHITE HOUSE SECURITY TO SUPERMAN!

SUPERMAN HERE. HOW CAN I BE OF SERVICE?

WE'RE USING THE COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE YOU GAVE THE PRESIDENT RECENTLY TO ALERT YOU OF A... STRANGE SITUATION.

SEEMS THERE'S A LARGE ALIEN CRAFT HEADED FOR COAST CITY, ORIGIN AND PURPOSE UNKNOWN.

I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND OUR CONCERN.

I'M ON MY WAY.

YOU MAY HAVE SOME HELP. ONE OF THOSE OTHER SO-CALLED SUPERMEN IS IN COAST CITY RIGHT NOW.

I'M AWARE OF THAT, SIR. IT COULD BE A COINCIDENCE--

--OR IT COULD ALSO BE THAT THIS IMPOSTOR WHO CLAIMS MY NAME COULD BE LEADING THESE ALIENS--

"--IN AN ATTACK ON COAST CITY!"

WE HAVE ARRIVED AT ZERO POINT ALPHA, LORD.

ABOUT TIME! IF OUR LEADER KNEW WE WERE BEHIND SCHEDULE LIKE THIS HE'D HAVE US ALL INCINERATED!

ALERT THE DROP CREWS TO PREPARE THE CARNAGE GLOBES!

I WANT THEM DROPPED AS SOON AS WE'RE STABILIZED!

WE'RE IN POSITION, LORD! CARNAGE GLOBES PRIMED AND READY!

THEN ARM ALL 77,000 UNITS--

"--AND FIRE!"

EEEE

F

EEEEEE

CAROL FERRIS! IT'S WONDERFUL HEARING FROM YOU! I CAN'T SHAKE THE MEMORIES OF THE WEIRD EXPERIENCES WE'VE LIVED THROUGH!

YOU TOO? I HAVEN'T STOPPED HAVING NIGHT-MARES ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT FERRIS, EITHER! *

TELL ME SOMETHING, CAROL. DON'T YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY THAT GREEN LANTERN ALWAYS SEEMS TO SHOW UP WHEN YOU'RE IN TROUBLE?

* GL ANNUAL #3

YEAH, RIGHT. ANYWAY, IF YOU STILL WANT ME, I'M READY TO MOVE TO COAST CITY AND TAKE THAT CONSULTING JOB.

DO I STILL WANT YOU? YOU BETTER BELIEVE I STILL WANT--

FERRI

EEEEEE

HANG ON JUST A SEC.

EEEEEE

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT SOU--?

THESE GLOBES! I'M NOT SURE WHAT THEY ARE BUT THEY CAN'T POSSIBLY BE GOOD!

I BET YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY ARE!

ADMIT IT, IMPOSTOR! YOU BROUGHT THIS SHIP HERE!

THAT'S PRE-POSTEROUS! WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE FOR SUCH AN ACCUSATION?

YOU AND THE SHIP ARE IN THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME. THAT'S ALL THE PROOF I NEED.

OUT OF MY WAY. I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS FOOL-ISHNESS! THIS SITUATION NEEDS CHECKING OUT AND I INTEND TO DO JUST THAT!

SO YOU'VE TURNED YOUR BACK ON ME.

JUST AS I THOUGHT YOU WOULD.

YOUR FIRST... AND LAST MISTAKE.

I DON'T KNOW WHO-- OR WHAT YOU ARE-- BUT AS YOU GO TO YOUR GRAVE THERE'S ONE THING YOU SHOULD KNOW.

YOU'LL BE BLAMED FOR THE DEATHS OF MILLIONS!

AIIEEEE!

ALL THE GLOBES HAVE LANDED, LORD! YOUR ORDERS?

DETONATE THEM, FOOL! I WANT ALL 77,000 OF THEM DETONATED **NOW!**

"BY YOUR COMMAND."

IT SOUNDS LIKE A MILLION THUNDERSTORMS ALL ROLLED INTO ONE.

77,000 EXPLOSIVE DEVICES ERUPT AS ONE--

--AND THE WORLD IS CHANGED FOREVER.

BOOOOM

CLAY! CLAY! ARE YOU OKAY?! ARE YOU THERE?!

I--I'M NOT IN LEAGUE WITH THESE BARBARIC, DESTROYERS!

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? **WHY?**

STILL ALIVE?

I'M SURPRISED. I FULLY EXPECTED YOU TO BE AS BURNT AS THE CITY BELOW.

YOU... DON'T EVEN CARE ABOUT COAST CITY!

SHUP FIP SWIP

WRONG.

I CARE A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THIS CITY'S FATE--

"--JUST LIKE THE ATTACKERS ABOARD THAT SHIP!"

LESS THAN 2000 CARNAGE GLOBES LEFT! THE FUSION GRID IS 93% COMPLETE!

RAISE SHIELDS! ONCE THE GRID IS IN PLACE AND READY TO BLOW--

"--WE'LL HAVE TO RIDE OUT THE BIGGEST EXPLOSION THIS PLANET HAS EVER SEEN!"

"THE GRID IS FORMED! LET THE EARTH VILLAGE DIE!"

YOU ARE NOW LEAVING COAST City

BA-DOOOM

SHREEEEEK

WHAT I CARE ABOUT--

--IS MAKING SURE EVERYTHING IN THIS ENTIRE AREA IS OBLITERATED!

ASHES TO ASHES.

DUST TO DUST.

IN SECONDS A SERIES OF 77,000 INDIVIDUAL EXPLOSIONS, EACH ONE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO TOPPLE A BUILDING--

--COALESCES INTO ONE MASSIVE BLAST CAPABLE OF WIPING OUT AN ENTIRE METROPOLITAN AREA.

EVERY OFFICE, EVERY HOME, EVERY SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL IS ATOMIZED.

THE WEST COAST AND ITS ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM IS INSTANTANEOUSLY SHATTERED--

--AND MORE THAN *SEVEN MILLION* MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN THAT ONCE CALLED THE COAST CITY AREA HOME--

--DIE.

TIME SEEMS TO CRAWL AS THE EXPLOSION STRETCHES WELL INTO ITS THIRD MINUTE.

THE SHEER FORCE AND MAGNITUDE OF THE BLAST SURPASS THAT OF ANY WEAPON INVENTED BY MAN.

SHIELDS ARE DOWN THIRTY-NINE PERCENT!

HOLD STEADY! WE'RE THROUGH THE WORST OF IT! AND WE CAN ONLY HOPE--

"--THE LEADER HAS SURVIVED!"

NOW COME THE SHOCK WAVES, SHREDDING AND BUFFETING EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATH.

TO SURVIVE IT IS ONE THING...

...TO DO SO WITHOUT SEVERE INJURY IS QUITE ANOTHER.

COMING... APART...

CAN'T THINK...CAN'T FOCUS..

HAVE TO... GET AWAY...

HOME.

THE SHOCK WAVES HAVE CLEARED! WE'RE DIRECTLY ABOVE THE EPICENTER AND IT'S PERFECTLY CALM, LORD!

MOVE INTO THE NEXT PHASE!

WE MUST HURRY BEFORE OUR MASTER ARRIVES!

RELEASE THE SEEDS!

FOOOM

SEEDS RELEASED, LORD! THE ENTIRE CRATER WILL BE IMPLANTED EVENLY!

HOW LONG BEFORE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS?

"CONSTRUCTION WILL COMMENCE WITH IMPACT, LORD!

"ONCE ALL SEEDS HAVE BURROWED TO THE APPROPRIATE DEPTH--

"--EACH UNIT WILL FOLLOW ITS PROGRAM--

"--UNTIL THEY FULLY DEPLOY AND CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER."

"UNDERGROUND FOUNDATION COMPLETE, LORD!

"THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS HAS PIERCED THE SURFACE!"

"GOOD! THE LEADER SHALL BE GREATLY PLEASED--

"--WHEN HE FINALLY MEETS US!"

MADE IT.--

HAVE TO GET INSIDE... TO THE FORTRESS--

TSSSSS

--BEFORE MY EXISTENCE COMES TO... AN END. AGAIN.

BEAUTIFUL.

THE DESTRUCTION IS SO MASSIVE AND ALL-CONSUMING--

--THAT IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

AND THIS... THE SELF-CONSTRUCTING REPLACEMENT FOR THE NOW DEAD CITY--

--IS EVEN MORE BREATHTAKING IN ITS APPEARANCE.

I'LL SHOW THESE BACKWARD IDIOTS THEY SHOULD HAVE ACCEPTED ME.

I'LL MAKE THEM ALL *CHOKE* ON MY SUPERIORITY AND THEN--

BREE-DEEEP

WHITE HOUSE TO SUPERMAN! WHITE HOUSE TO SUPERMAN!

GREAT SCOTT, IF YOU CAN HEAR ME--

--YOU'VE GOT TO ANSWER! PLEASE!

I CAN BARELY HEAR YOU, WHITE HOUSE! THERE'S A LOT OF DEBRIS IN THE ATMOSPHERE!

TELL ME WHAT YOU'VE FOUND! THE SMOKE AND ASH THERE IS SO THICK THAT OUR SATELLITES CAN'T "SEE" THROUGH IT!

WE CAN'T RAISE ANYONE IN COAST CITY, EITHER! I MEAN, TELL ME THAT... THIS ISN'T REALLY...

IT IS.

I DID EVERY-THING POSSIBLE TO PREVENT IT BUT COAST CITY IS GONE.

EVERYTHING... IS GONE.

WHY? HOW? TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE!

NOTHING. THE ONLY THING HERE IS A LARGE, SMOLDERING CRATER.

WHAT ABOUT THAT SHIP WE WARNED YOU ABOUT? DID YOU CATCH IT?

I ONLY CAUGHT A BRIEF GLIMPSE BEFORE IT VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE!

ANTARCTICA.

FAR BELOW THE SURFACE LIES SUPERMAN'S INCREDIBLE *FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE.*

A PRODUCT OF KRYPTONIAN TECHNOLOGY AND HISTORY, ITS CAPABILITIES SEEM LIMITLESS,

ITS POTENTIAL... *INFINITE.*

FINALLY! WITH THIS SUIT... I WILL *SURVIVE!*

BUT--HOW COULD THAT ENTIRE SPACESHIP VANISH?!

THE BLAST WAS MASSIVE. FOR ALL WE KNOW--

--THE EXPLOSION MAY HAVE DESTROYED THE SHIP AS WELL.

AS I SAID EARLIER, WITH ALL THIS ASH AND DEBRIS IN THE SKY, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE MORE THAN A FEW FEET!

ARE YOU SURE THERE AREN'T ANY SURVIVORS?

DOUBT IT VERY MUCH, WHITE HOUSE. I'VE USED MY TELE-SCOPIC VISION TO SCAN THIS ENTIRE CRATER--

--AND THE ONLY THING HERE IS *ME*.

DO WHAT YOU CAN, SUPERMAN. WE'LL HAVE EMERGENCY TEAMS THERE A.S.A.P.!

SUPERMAN OUT.

YOU'VE COMPLETED THE DOCKING PROCESS?

GOOD! WE'RE BEHIND SCHEDULE!

YES.

THE CONSTRUCTION SHALL SOON BE COMPLETE!

ONCE I'M DONE--

--EARTH WILL BE DAMNED!

YES, MASTER. YOUR DREAMS AND WISHES WILL BE FULFILLED!

I HAVE RESHAPED COAST CITY TO MY DESIRE.

AND METROPOLIS IS NEXT!

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK IN ADVENTURES #503

KARL KESEL WRITER * TOM GRUMMETT PENCILLER * DOUG HAZLEWOOD INKER * ALBERT DEGUZMAN LETTERER * GLENN WHITMORE COLORIST * FRANK PITTARESE ASSOC. EDITOR * MIKE CARLIN EDITOR

I'M OVER SANTA BARBARA...

...OR WHAT'S LEFT OF IT.

LINE OF FIRE!

SUPERMAN Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

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FIRES STRETCH TO THE *HORIZON*. THE LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST IS AN *INFERNO*. VISIBILITY IS *MINIMAL*.

CONSIDERING THE *TYPE* OF BLAST--I'D SAY THESE BLAZES WERE SET BY AUXILIARY *INCENDIARY* DEVICES--

--AND NOT THE SAME BOMB THAT DESTROYED *COAST CITY*!

THANK GOD YOU GAVE THE WHITE HOUSE THIS *PERSONAL* COMMUNICATIONS LINK, SUPERMAN...

...NOTHING ELSE WE HAVE WILL *PENETRATE* THAT SMOKE AND ASH!

HARD TO *BELIEVE* I'M 'CROSS COUNTRY FROM YOU...

...*KRYPTONIAN* TECHNOLOGY. HUH?

ANYWAY, IT'S CLEAR THE PRESIDENT SHOULD SEND IN TROOPS, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE...

LET'S *FINISH* THE SWEEP BEFORE WE MAKE ANY DECISIONS, MR. QUINN.

I'M MOVING INTO A SECOND ZONE, CLOSER TO GROUND ZERO.

EVERYTHING'S SMASHED FLAT. COVERED WITH ASH.

LIFELESS.

WAIT-- NOT QUITE LIFELESS. LET ME CHECK ON THIS.

SUPERMAN OUT.

HEY! IT'S, LIKE, ONE OF THOSE SUPERMEN! THE HI-TECH DUDE?

IT'S THE MARINES, GIRL! WE'RE SAVED!

SUPERMAN! YOU, LIKE, WON'T BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED TO US!

WE WERE IN OUR CAR? BUT, LIKE, WHEN THE BLAST HIT, WE WERE IN THIS UNDERPASS? SO--

WE BEAT THE ODDS! WE WALKED AWAY... INTO THIS HELL!

WHAT HAPPENED? THE RUSSKIES PUSH THE BUTTON?

NO. IT WAS AN ALIEN SHIP AIDED BY A... ROGUE SUPERMAN.

YOU'RE ALL IN GREAT DANGER. THIS ROGUE IS UNSTOPPABLE. HE--

THERE HE IS! BEHIND YOU!

WHERE?!

I DON'T SEE A THING! ALL THIS HAZE...

I SAID...

FIREWORKS

"...HE'S BEHIND YOU.

MR. QUINN? FALSE ALARM.

SOME WOUNDED ANIMALS. I PUT THEM OUT OF THEIR MISERY.

THIS THING'S TOO BIG, SUPERMAN-- ESPECIALLY WITH THE ROGUE STILL LOOSE!

I'M CALLING THE JUSTICE LEAGUE...

I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.

THE YOUNG SUPERMAN-- IF HE'S REALLY A CLONE OF ME, WE'LL BE THE PERFECT TEAM.

GOOD POINT! I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT!

ANYTHING ELSE TO REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT?

FINISHING MY SWEEP-- THERE'S AN INNERMOST RING OF DESTRUCTION.

THE BLAST THREW UP RUBBLE AND BOULDERS, CREATING A SMALL MOUNTAIN RANGE.

BEYOND THAT IS...

...NOTHING.

NO STRUCTURES, NO SIGNS OF LIFE AT ALL.

...MILITARY SEALED THE AREA WHILE EMERGENCY TEAMS AWAIT THE CYBORG SUPERMAN'S INITIAL REPORT.

WE REPEAT-- A MAJOR EXPLOSION HAS HAPPENED IN OR NEAR COAST CITY. ALL CONTACT WITH THE CITY HAS BEEN LOST.

COAST CITY

MASSIVE EARTHQUAKES HAVE STRUCK THE ENTIRE WEST COAST...

WGBS

CAT GRANT, WGBS

"...OUR NEWSROOM WILL KEEP YOU POSTED AS EVENTS DEVELOP..."

...TSUNAMI? WHERE AND WHEN?

...WENT INTO THE AREA BUT NEVER CAME OUT...?

WOULD YOU GO ON THE AIR WITH THAT...?

BRISCOE? IS...IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?

...THOUSANDS DEAD IN PORTLAND... FIRES...

HOLD IT, PROFESSOR.

YEAH, TANA--STICK TO YOUR SUPER GLAMOUR BOY AND LET THE REAL REPORTERS COVER THE REAL NE--

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--

--ATTENTION, PLEASE!

I, VINNIE EDGE--YOUR CHERISHED AND HUMBLE EMPLOYER, HAVE JUST RECEIVED WORD FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.

IT SEEMS THIS COAST CITY CRISIS IS A JOB FOR SUPERMAN...

...OUR SUPERMAN.

ACCOMPANIED BY OUR CAMERAS.'

TANA? IF YOU'LL STEP INTO MY OFFICE...

OF COURSE, VINNIE.

EXCUSE ME, BRISCOE...

"...LOOKS LIKE I'M STUCK WITH THE GLAMOUR BOY AGAIN."

GOTTA STOP DOOMSDAY.!

GOTTA STOP DOOMSDAY.!

AW, NO!

NO WAY!

500

THA-DOOOM

YES.!

YES WAY.!

LOOK -- THIS VIDEO GAME AIN'T CALLED "THE DEATH OF SUPERMAN" FOR NOTHIN', FLY BOY!

...ONLY GENUINE IMITATION CORINTHIAN LEATHER WILL DO-- YOU GOT THAT?

YEAH, ROXIE? WELL, NEXT TIME I'M DOOMSDAY-- AND YOU'LL BE HORIZONTAL!

PROMISES, PROMISES!

DOOMSDAY WIN!

HA! HA! HA!

Y'KNOW, YOU GOT THE TALENT--SOMEONE'S JUST GOTTA SHOW YOU HOW TO USE YOUR JOYSTICK BETTER...

GOT ANYONE IN MIND?

SUPERMAN--PLEASE! I'M THE GIRL'S FATHER! TALK ABOUT SOMETHIN' ELSE...

I THINK HE'D RATHER TALK TO ME, REX--ABOUT BRAVERY, HEROISM... THINGS YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND!

LUCKILY, YOU TWO WERE ON YOUR WAY OUT--

SKAMM!

--WEREN'T YOU?

WHO DIED AN' MADE TANA MOON QUEEN WITCH A' THE UNIVERSE?

NOW, NOW, ROXIE...

...THAT SUPERBOY'S THE BEST MEAL TICKET WE EVER HAD... AND TANA CAME WITH THE TERRITORY.

TRUST ME--THINGS ARE HAPPENIN' THAT'LL TAKE HER OUTTA THE PICTURE...

...AND THEN THE KID'S ALL OURS!

...THOSE TWO'LL SUCK YOU DRY! THEY'LL--

LISTEN TO ME--I SOUND LIKE YOUR MOM! SORRY!

IT'S JUST... WITH WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE...

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU DON'T KNOW?

I, UH, DON'T REALLY KEEP UP MUCH ON CURRENT EVENTS...

KLIK

...ASH AND DEBRIS FROM COAST CITY HAS NEARLY BLOTTED OUT THE SUN HERE IN DENVER!

THE PRESIDENT HAS CALLED ON THE YOUNG SUPERMAN TO INVESTIGATE THIS CRISIS!

WGBS

HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A GBS CREW AND THE CYBORG SUPERMAN...

FRESH! SO THAT'S THE DEAL, HUH?

PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES, TANA--WE'RE HEADIN' WEST!

...I WON'T BE GOING.

I, UH...

...VERY BAD IDEA, MR. EDGE! I'M THE GBS FACE PEOPLE ASSOCIATE WITH THIS SUPERMAN!

THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR FACE, TANA! IT'S TIME YOU LEARNED THAT!

YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR JOB AND HAVE A CHANCE OF COVERING YOUR PRECIOUS SUPERBOY AGAIN?

THEN JUST TELL THE KID THAT...

...NO FLIGHT COULD GET ME THERE FAST ENOUGH, AND CARRYING ME WOULD JUST TIRE YOU OUT MORE.

YOU'LL HOOK UP WITH A GBS AFFILIATE IN BAKERSFIELD

WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT TOGETHER, HAVEN'T WE? IT'S LIKE WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR... SO LONG...

HEY--I'VE KNOWN YOU MOST OF MY LIFE!

JUST ABOUT ALL THREE WEEKS OF IT!

YOU... JERK!

YOU'RE PROBABLY MY BEST FRIEND IN THE WHOLE WORLD RIGHT NOW...

TANA! THIS, UH, THIS ISN'T THE BEST TIME...

... I, LIKE, GOTTA GO SAVE THE WORLD OR SOMETHIN'...

LISTEN-- I SAID "FRIEND" AND I MEANT "FRIEND," OKAY?

NOW, BE CAREFUL OUT THERE. I WON'T BE LOOKING OUT FOR YOU THIS TIME.

NEED I REMIND YOU? YOU'RE TALKIN' TO SUPERMAN!

SO, IT'S UP, UP...

...AND I'M OUTTA HERE!

ANTARCTICA.

KRAK-KOOM!!

VREEEE-CHUNK!!

DOOM!
DOOM!
DOOM!
DOOM!

DOOM!
DOOM!
DOOM!
DOOM!

POOSHH!!

PUM!

TONG!

CHOOMP!

CHOOMP!

VREEEEEE

DOOM!

DOOM!

DOOM!

DOOM!

...HARD EVIDENCE COAST CITY WAS DESTROYED BY THE SO-CALLED "LAST SON OF KRYPTON."

MY CLONE AND I WILL BRING THIS ROGUE TO JUSTICE!

DOES THIS THIS MEAN YOU AGREE THE CYBORG IS THE REAL SUPERMAN?

WELL... MAYBE.

YEAH, THAT GETS A DEFINITE MAYBE.

I STILL *STRONGLY* ADVISE AGAINST FOLLOWING US INTO THE *DEAD ZONES* OF THE BLAST AREA.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW *DANGEROUS* THE ROGUE IS!

TALK TO THE *WHITE HOUSE*, SUPERMAN-- GBS HAS A *GREEN LIGHT* ON THIS.

THEN YOU'LL *DIE* IN THERE, GENTLEMEN.

I GUARANTEE IT.

WHOA! CAN THE GLOOM-N-DOOM, "POPS!"

DO YOU REALLY THINK SO? I MUST SAY...

I MEAN--WITH THE *TWO OF US* LOOKING AFTER THINGS?

THEY'RE COVERED!

...I WISH I HAD THAT MUCH CONFIDENCE IN MY POWERS WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE!

WHAT!?

...FIREBIRD TO BASE--TWO MINUTES THIRTY INTO FLIGHT. JUST CLEARED THE TEMBLOR MOUNTAINS.

IT'S AN INFERNO OVER HERE! IF IT SPREADS EAST...

...THE NAVAL PETROLEUM RESERVES OUTSIDE BAKERSFIELD COULD BLOW SKY-HIGH!

YEAH--WE'LL MAKE THINGS PLENTY HOT FOR THAT GUY...

...LIKE IT ISN'T HOT ENOUGH ALREADY, Y'KNOW?

THE TEMPERATURE DOESN'T BOTHER ME, SON.

IN FACT, I THINK THINGS ARE GOING TO GET A LOT HOTTER...

FIRST WE DEAL WITH THE ROGUE SUPERMAN, FIREBIRD...

...THEN WE'LL CLEAN UP HIS MESS!

BWHOOM!

SUPERMAN TO BASE.. WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

CAN'T SEE THE ROGUE! TOO MUCH SMOKE!

I'M JAMMING THIS FREQUENCY IN CASE HE'S USING IT TO HOME IN ON US!

OH MY GOD!

YOU...YOU USED YOUR HEAT VISION TO...TO...

...BUT WE SAID WE'D PROTECT THEM!

I SAID I'D PROTECT THEM...

...AND I SAID THEY'D DIE IN HERE!

SUPERMAN ALWAYS KEEPS HIS WORD!

AS FOR YOU...

KRAK

...WELCOME TO HELL!

KAFF! KAFF! YOU FOOLED ME, LUGNUTS! FOOLED THE WHOLE WORLD!

END OF THE LINE, MAN! I'LL STOP YOU...

...AND SUPERMAN ALWAYS WINS!

THAT'S RIGHT, BOY...

...EXCEPT I'M SUPERMAN!

THAK-KOOM!

BUT I THOUGHT I SHOULD DEAL WITH YOU...

...JUST IN CASE YOU ARE A CLONE!

DAMN STRAIGHT I'M SUPERMAN'S CLO--

--AAAA!

ARE YOU SURE?

SUPERMAN ISN'T HURT BY FIRE! SUPERMAN WOULD LAUGH AT THIS ENERGY BLAST!

GUESS I'M JUST NOT IN THE MOOD TO LAUGH, TINSEL TEETH!

YOW!

ZZZAAAMM!

WHAT'S THE STORY WITH MY *INVULNERABILITY*? IT KEEPS KICKING ON AND OFF!

AND HOW COME I CAN'T FIGURE HOW TO TURN ON MY *X-RAY VISION*?

MAYBE LUGNUTS IS *RIGHT*. MAYBE...

NO WAY! I *GOTTA* BE A CLONE OF SUPERMAN! OKAY, NOT A *PERFECT* CLONE, BUT--

THINK YOU COULD ESCAPE *ME*, BOY?

YOU'RE ONLY DELAYING THE *INEVITABLE*!

I ALWAYS-- *AAGH*!--

--ALWAYS *WAS* A PROCRASTINATOR!

JOKE ALL YOU WANT-- BUT I'LL WRITE SUPERMAN'S LEGACY...

...AND IT'LL BE WRITTEN IN *BLOOD*!

WAUMM

THE KID'S UNGH!--NOT OUT YET! HE'S STILL GOT...

FRATZ!

...A FEW TRICKS UP HIS SLEEVE!

MY ARM! HOW--?

THAT'S MY SECRET!

I HAVE NO IDEA!

REBUILDING IT WILL BE CHILD'S PLAY--BUT I DON'T NEED IT AGAINST YOU! YOU'RE NO SUPERMAN!

YOU'RE NOT EVEN HIS CLONE!

TRICKY THE BOY IS!

HELP THE LEADER SHOULD WE NOT, LORD MONGUL?

NO! THIS IS THE...

"...THE LEADER'S BATTLE. WE SHALL NOT INTERFERE.

IF BY SOME... UNFORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCE THE LEADER SHOULD FALL, HE SHALL BE AVENGED.

A GOOD GENERAL TO THE LEADER YOU ARE, LORD MONGUL!

YES--BUT ONCE I WAS A KING! I COMMANDED THE ULTIMATE WEAPON--WARWORLD..

"--UNTIL SUPERMAN CAME ALONG! I LEARNED TO HATE THAT MAN AND HIS SYMBOL... IN ALL THEIR FORMS!"

AND NOW THERE IS TO BE A NEW WARWORLD..

...BUT I SWEAR I ALONE SHALL BE ITS KING!

I... AM SUPERMAN'S CLONE..

...I AM...

...THEY... DIDN'T UNDERSTAND KRYPTONIAN D.N.A...

...HAD TO MAKE ...SOME CHANGES...

...THAT'S IT...

...THAT HAS TO BE...

...IT?

DON'T WORRY, BOY...

... IT ISN'T THE END OF THE WORLD!

WHOOM

THAMM!

UNNGH...

IT'S ONLY THE END OF YOUR WORLD!

N-NO...

YOU...

...YOU CAN'T BE...

...THE REAL SUPERMAN...

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW.

KREK!

CONTINUED IN ACTION #690!

LIES & REVELATIONS

CENTENNIAL PARK. METROPOLIS...

LOOK NOT UPON OUR SAVIOR'S FACE WITH FEAR! FOR THOUGH HE BEARS THE MARKS OF HIS RIGHTEOUS BATTLE AGAINST THE TERRIBLE BEAST DOOMSDAY--

--BY HIS DEEDS YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH! AND HIS NOBLE AND MERCIFUL DEEDS REVEAL IN HIM THE ONE TRUE SUPERMAN!

BE NOT DECEIVED BY THE SMOOTH, UNBLEMISHED FACE OF THIS VISORED IMPOST! HE MAY LOOK LIKE OUR SAVIOR-- BUT, I SAY UNTO YOU, HE IS A FRAUD...

WRITTEN BY ROGER STERN | ILLUSTRATED BY JACKSON GUICE & DENIS RODIER | LETTERED BY BILL OAKLEY | COLORED BY GLENN WHITMORE | EDITED BY MIKE CARLIN | ABETTED BY NEW ASSOCIATE EDITOR FRANK PITTARESE

SUPERMAN Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

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...HE HAS WANTONLY KILLED AND RUTHLESSLY TORTURED! BUT BECAUSE HE ATTACKED THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT, TOO MANY OF US LOOKED THE OTHER WAY! SOME OF US WERE FOOLED, TAKEN IN BY THIS FALSE SUPERMAN...

...BUT NOW THE BEAST HAS SHOWN HIS TRUE COLORS! IN MY HOME STATE OF CALIFORNIA, HE HAS ATTACKED OUR CYBORG SAVIOR AND LEVELED COAST CITY!

HE MUST BE SHUNNED! HE MUST BE DRIVEN BACK TO THE HELL WHENCE HE CAME! HE MUST BE DESTROYED!

IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD. STAND BY AND WAIT FOR MY COMMAND TO MOVE OUT.

GEEZ, MAGGIE, NEARLY HALF OF THESE "SUPER-CULTIST" WEIRDIES HAVE THEIR FACES PAINTED TO LOOK LIKE THE CYBORG...

...AND THEY'RE EATIN' UP THAT PREACHER-MAN'S FIRE-AN'-BRIMSTONE!

DESTROY THE VISORED ONE! DESTROY HIM!

FOOLS...

...YOUR "SAVIOR" IS LESS THAN A MAN... LESS EVEN THAN A MACHINE! YOU WORSHIP A GRAVEN IMAGE COME TO AN UNHOLY LIFE!

YEAH, WHY DON'T YOU WORSHIP A GOLDEN CALF AN' MAKE A CLEAN JOB OF IT?

YOU... DARE... MOCK OUR LORD?!

DOWN WIT FALS

THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE ANSWER TO SUCH BLASPHEMY!

TO MY SIDE, TRUE BELIEVERS! DRIVE OUT THE DEVIL-WORSHIPERS!

HE HAS RISE

IT IS YOU WHO HAVE LOST YOUR SOULS TO THE DEVIL! WE SHALL BE HEARD! WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED!

THE POT'S BOILING OVER! DO IT--NOW!!

THE WORD IS "GO!"

OKAY, EVERYBODY, LET'S BREAK IT UP! WE KNOW YOU ALL HAVE FAITH -- LET'S SEE A LITTLE CHARITY!

TH-THERE ARE NON-BELIEVERS IN OUR MIDST!

WE CAN'T HANDLE THIS ALONE...

...WHERE'S OUR BACKUP?

FAN OUT! THE "FAITHFUL" ARE ALREADY THROWING PUNCHES!

MOMENTS LATER...

BACK! C'MON, BACK BEHIND THE LINE!

WE MANAGED TO PRY 'EM APART, BUT JUST BARELY! THERE ARE SO MANY OF 'EM... HOW LONG CAN WE KEEP 'EM SEPARATED?

LISTEN TO ME! THIS IS INSPECTOR SAWYER OF THE METROPOLIS SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT!

I KNEW SUPERMAN!

AND NO MATTER WHO YOU BELIEVE HIM TO BE... YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES! ALL OF YOU-- BOTH FACTIONS-- HAVE DISGRACED HIS MEMORY!

THIS IS HALLOWED GROUND! IT'S NO PLACE FOR A TURF WAR!

SUPERMAN ISN'T HERE TO TELL YOU THIS, SO I WILL: GO HOME AND CALM DOWN.

AND THEN DO SOMETHING POSITIVE WITH YOUR BELIEFS!

NICE WORK, INSPECTOR. THAT REALLY DID THE TRICK!

YEAH... THIS TIME.

BUT LET'S KEEP THE TEAR GAS READY, JUST IN CASE...

"...THINGS ERUPT AGAIN!"

EEYYAAA!!

KILL YOU? WHY, I'M MERELY TESTING YOUR LIMITS...

WHY... WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!

WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?!

...YOU MISERABLE LITTLE GENETIC MISTAKE!

OOOOhh, MAN... WHAT A WEIRD...

...DREAM?

NO! IT *DID* HAPPEN! SORT OF. THAT CYBORG-SUPERMAN REALLY TRIED TO ACE ME!

WHERE THE HELL AM I?!

ah, I SUSPECTED YOU MIGHT SOON AWAKE.

YOU DISPLAYED A MOST IMPRESSIVE RESILIENCY DURING OUR LITTLE BATTLE, *SUPERBOY!*

THAT'S SUPERMAN TO YOU, MR. ROBOTO!

AND IF IT'S RESILIENCY YOU WANNA SEE--

--JUST LET ME OUT OF THIS HIGH-TECH ERECTOR SET, AND I'LL TAKE YOUR ARM APART FOR YOU AGAIN!

YOU WOULD DO WELL TO WATCH YOUR TONGUE, PUP!

OH, YEAH? AND WHO ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE, BEETLE-BROW... THE POSTER CHILD FOR JAUNDICE?

LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU TOOK TOO MANY STEROIDS! OWWW!

I FIND YOUR LACK OF RESPECT MOST DISTASTEFUL.

APOLOGIZE, AND PERHAPS I'LL LEAVE YOUR JAW ATTACHED TO YOUR FACE.

PERHAPS.

THAT'S ENOUGH, MONGUL! LET GO OF THE BOY.

HE MUST LEARN RESPECT--!

HE WILL. UNHAND HIM.

AS YOU WISH... LEADER.

"LEADER"?! YOU MEAN MONGOLOID THERE WORKS FOR YOU?

'SCUSE ME, BUT I WALKED INTO THE MIDDLE OF THIS MOVIE! WHAT'S GOING ON? AND WHERE ARE WE?

WHAT'S GOING ON IS THE REDESIGNING OF THIS ENTIRE PLANET.

IT IS A GRAND DESIGN WHICH YOU, MY INSIGNIFICANT LITTLE CLONE, ARE QUITE POWERLESS TO DISRUPT!

AS TO OUR LOCATION...

...WE ARE CURRENTLY SITUATED NEAR THE CENTER OF WHAT WAS ONCE COAST CITY. AS YOU CAN SEE, WE HAVE RECONSTRUCTED THINGS SOMEWHAT.

I LIKE TO THINK OF IT NOW AS ENGINE CITY!

YOU MEAN... YOU LEVELED COAST CITY TO BUILD THAT--?!

WE DID.

MOREOVER, I'VE LED THE WORLD TO BELIEVE THAT THE VISOR-WEARING SUPERMAN IMPOSTOR WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR COAST CITY'S DESTRUCTION.* THE MEDIA CHEERS ME FOR MY PURSUIT OF HIM.

LITTLE DO THEY KNOW HE'S ALREADY DEAD. I KILLED HIM, OF COURSE.**

*IN ADVENTURES #503. **(OR SO HE BELIEVES) IN SUPERMAN #80.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

MY REASONS ARE MY OWN. SUPERMAN KNOWS BEST.

DON'T HAND ME THAT! YOU'RE NOT SUPERMAN!

I AM NOW. IF YOU WISH TO REACH YOUR MATURITY, YOU SHOULD ACCEPT AND ACKNOWLEDGE ME AS YOUR MASTER. YOU HAVE NO OTHER OPTIONS.

THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM ENGINE CITY.

COME, MONGUL...

"...LET US LEAVE OUR YOUNG FRIEND TO CONTEMPLATE HIS FUTURE."

OH, MAN... I REALLY BLEW IT THIS TIME!

IF EVEN HALF OF WHAT HE SAID IS TRUE, HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN A VISE.

MY CONGRATULATIONS. YOU PUT HIM IN HIS PLACE MOST MASTERFULLY.

I MERELY POINTED OUT THE FACTS OF HIS PREDICAMENT. HIS FATE IS IN HIS HANDS.

WHAT OF THE OTHER SUPER-BEINGS WHO RESIDE ON THE WORLD? WHAT OF THE SELF-STYLED "JUSTICE LEAGUE"?

THE LEAGUE AND THEIR ASSOCIATES COULD CONCEIVABLY PRESENT A CHALLENGE, WERE THEY TO LEARN THE TRUTH. BUT DESPITE THEIR CONSIDERABLE POWER, THEY SHOULD BE EASY TO DECEIVE!

ALL OF THEM? WHAT OF THE ONE CALLED SUPERGIRL?

SUPERGIRL?

DID YOU SAY SUPERGIRL?!

HA HA HA HA HA!!!

YOU MUST BE JOKING, MONGUL! SHE'S HELD IN CHECK BY A CORPORATE SPONSOR! SHE'S EVEN LESS OF A THREAT THAN THE BOY!

YES... AND, OF COURSE, YOU WERE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE BOY EASILY. EXACTLY WHY DID YOU LET HIM LIVE? YOU SHOWED NO SUCH CONSIDERATION FOR THE VISORED PRETENDER.

WHY? THE BOY HAS POSSIBILITIES. HE HAS THE MALLEABILITY OF YOUTH. DATA FROM THE GOVERNMENT COMPUTER NETWORKS INDICATES THAT HE MIGHT ACTUALLY BE A SUPERMAN CLONE.

IF THIS IS SO, HE COULD PROVE USEFUL... AS SPARE PARTS, IF NOTHING ELSE.

AND IN RETROSPECT, I REGRET ALLOWING THE ATOMIZATION OF THAT OTHER "SUPERMAN." I WAS UNABLE TO LEARN HIS ORIGINS. IF I HAD...

"... WHO KNOWS WHAT WE MIGHT HAVE LEARNED FROM HIM?"

ALERT! FORTRESS WALLS ARE BEING BREACHED.

SCAN INDICATES AN UNUSUALLY HIGH ENERGY RELEASE...

...ACROSS THE SPECTRUM!

HELP... ME...

IS IT... THE MASTER?

WHUMP

HE HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY INJURED. HIS BODY SHOWS SIGNS OF SEVERE RADIATION BURNS.

WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED THIS?

THE CYBORG... DANGER! NEED THE... REGENERATION MATRIX. TAKE ME THERE... HURRY!

YES, SIR. AT ONCE.

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT--!

LATER. FIRST...

...THE MATRIX? NO. NO... IT'S OPEN... EMPTY!

THE POWER SOURCE... IS GONE! GONE! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH IT?

MASTER, PLEASE. WE HAVE BUT FOLLOWED OUR PRESCRIBED PROGRAMMING--!

YOU SHOULD NOT WASTE YOUR ENERGY IN THIS MANNER. YOU ARE NOT WELL.

TELL ME... WHAT HAPPENED HERE?! WHERE HAS... THE POWER GONE?!

THAT WALL... SHATTERED. KRYPTONIAN CLOTHING SCATTERED... THE WAR-SUIT... GONE! DID INTRUDERS BREAK IN... STEAL THE POWER--?

NO, MASTER. THE MATRIX OPENED FROM WITHIN--

"--IT COULD NO LONGER CONTAIN THE POWER YOU HAD PLACED INSIDE."

THE KRYPTONIAN WAR-SUIT WAS DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND MULTI-KILOTON EXPLOSIONS. THERE ARE FEW THINGS ON EARTH THAT COULD STOP IT.

NOT THE ULTRA-THICK WALLS OF SUPERMAN'S UNDERGROUND ANTARCTIC FORTRESS... NOT THE UNCARING COLD OF THE RONNE ICE SHELF...

ALL CHALLENGES ARE DEALT WITH AUTOMATICALLY, EFFICIENTLY AND HUMANELY...

...AND THEN, IT CONTINUES ON-- EVER NORTHWARD--TOWARDS ITS PREPROGRAMMED DESTINATION.

...NOT THE INCREDIBLE PRESSURES OF THE OCEAN FLOOR. NOTHING PRESENTS ANY CREDIBLE OBSTACLE TO THE WAR-SUIT AS IT MARCHES ON.

METROPOLIS.

INSPECTOR SAWYER? I NEED TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT THE REPORTS FROM COAST CITY.

COAST--?! MS. LANE, I HARDLY THINK THAT MY PROMOTION TO INSPECTOR EXTENDED MY AUTHORITY ACROSS COUNTRY!

I KNOW, BUT YOU'RE WORKING WITH COMMISSIONER HENDERSON ON THE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE FOUR NEW "SUPERMEN"--AND THAT'S REALLY WHAT THIS CONCERNS. IN THE TELEVISED REPORTS FROM CALIFORNIA--

--WHEN THAT CYBORG-SUPERMAN PRAISED THE TEEN SUPERMAN, HE SAID, "I WISH I'D HAD THAT MUCH CONFIDENCE IN MY POWERS WHEN I WAS HIS AGE."*

SO?

THE REAL SUPERMAN ONCE TOLD ME THAT HIS POWERS DEVELOPED *SLOWLY*. WHEN HE WAS IN HIS MID-TEENS, HE *DIDN'T HAVE* THE LEVEL OF POWER THIS TEEN SUPERMAN HAS!

*AGAIN, IN **ADVENTURES** #503.

LOOK, MAYBE HE WAS SPEAKING METAPHORICALLY. THE FEDS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR CONFIDENCE IN HIM, AND THEY SEEM TO HAVE GOOD REASON TO--!

AH, INSPECTOR, THERE YOU ARE! GOT A SEC?

SURE. OH, LANE, THIS IS TOM JENSON, ONE OF OUR POLICE SCIENTISTS. HE'S ON THE TEAM INVESTIGATING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SUPERMAN'S BODY FROM ITS TOMB.

TOM, LOIS LANE OF THE DAILY PLANET.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

INSPECTOR, I DISCOVERED SOMETHING THAT I KNEW YOU'D WANT TO HEAR ABOUT RIGHT AWAY... SOMETHING *WEIRD* ABOUT THE STONE SLAB THAT THE COFFIN HAD BEEN RESTING ON...

...IT'S *SHORTER* THAN IT ORIGINALLY HAD BEEN! I DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHY, BUT APPARENTLY SOMETHING HAS STOLEN PART OF ITS *MASS*!

WHAT?!?

"YOU MAY FIND THIS SHOCKING..."

...I KNOW THAT WE DID. I APOLOGIZE FOR THE PICTURE QUALITY...

...THIS RECORDING COMES FROM A CAM-CORDER WHICH WE RECOVERED FROM THE RUBBLE OF COAST CITY. IT IS A MIRACLE THAT IT SURVIVED AT ALL.

IF ONLY I COULD HAVE ARRIVED IN TIME TO PREVENT MY IMPOSTOR'S SENSE-LESS SLAUGHTER. THOSE GALLANT NATIONAL GUARDS-MEN FOUGHT TO THE VERY END.

I WON'T TROUBLE YOU WITH ANY MORE OF THIS. IT'S... NOT PLEASANT.

THIS IS THE PRESENT STATE OF COAST CITY, AS RECORDED BY THE GBS CAMERA CREW WHO HAVE ACCOM-PANIED US.

DUE TO THE MAGNITUDE OF THE DESTRUCTION, THEY HAVE REFRAINED FROM RELEASING THIS FOOTAGE FOR GENERAL BROADCAST UNTIL AUTHORITIES CAN PREPARE THE PUBLIC.

I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE THAT THOSE WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS HORRIBLE CATASTROPHE MUST BE DEALT WITH...

...OVER SEVEN MILLION PEOPLE WERE KILLED HERE. THEY MUST BE AVENGED!

SUPERMAN'S RIGHT! BUT WE'RE GONNA NEED YOUR HELP! WE'RE HOPPIN' TO KEEP ON TOP OF THINGS HERE.

INDEED. THERE ARE FIRESTORMS TO BE EXTINGUISHED AND FAULT-LINES TO BE SHORED UP.

YOU HAVE OUR FULL SUPPORT, SUPERMEN...

...WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO?

HEY, WHAT DO YOU THINK, CAPPY? WE WANT YOU TO BEAT THE BAD GUYS!

MY YOUNG CLONE AND I HAVE MANAGED TO ROUT MY ROGUE IMPOSTOR. HE AND HIS ALLIES HAVE FLED THE EARTH.

WE ASK THAT THIS SPECIAL JUSTICE LEAGUE TASK FORCE USE THE POWER AT YOUR DISPOSAL TO HUNT DOWN AND APPREHEND THEM.

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS.

THE POWER OF A SUPERMAN, TURNED TO DESTRUCTION--! IT'S AN IMAGE ONLY ARES COULD LOVE.

WE WILL DO ALL THAT WE CAN. YOU HAVE OUR WORD ON THAT.

THE MANHUNTER SPEAKS FOR US ALL.

JADE? ARE YOU HOLDING UP ALL RIGHT?

I--I GUESS SO, DAD. I'VE JUST NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO HORRIBLE! HAVE YOU?

NOT SINCE HIROSHIMA.

MY PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS INDICATE THAT THE FALSE SUPERMAN WAS THE POINT MAN FOR AN ALIEN ARMADA BENT ON REMAKING THIS ENTIRE PLANET.

ALL RIGHT, I'VE HEARD ENOUGH OF THIS BULL!

HE'D NEVER DO THAT!

GUY! SIT DOWN!

YOU SAW THE RECORDING. AND THE IMPOSTOR'S RECORD INDICATES THAT HE WAS UNSTABLE!

THE SUPERMAN I MET WAS NO IMPOSTOR, PRINCESS. SURE, HE TOOK NO PRISONERS, BUT HE'D NEVER LEVEL A CITY! HE'S RIGHTEOUS--!

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T MEAN SELF-RIGHTEOUS?

LISTEN UP, MOE! WONDER WOMAN'S GOT HIS NUMBER DOWN COLD! THE DUDE SOLD US OUT, PURE AND SIMPLE!

IF YOU COULD SEE WHAT WE'VE SEEN--!

EASY, YOUNGSTER! GARDNER'S NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS TAKEN IN.

LOOK, THE THINGS YOU'VE SHOWN US ARE HORRIBLE ENOUGH!

WHY IN HEAVEN'S NAME DID YOU HAVE THE LEAGUE DIVERT US HERE TO THE EAST COAST?! GREEN LANTERN AND I LIVE IN CALIFORNIA!

YES, WE COULD BE OUT THERE NOW-- HELPING YOU!

I ASSURE YOU, GRAVE AS THE SITUATION IS, WE HAVE THINGS UNDER CONTROL HERE.

YOU WERE SUMMONED TO THE TASK FORCE BECAUSE YOUR POWER IS NEEDED TO HUNT THE TRAITOR DOWN.

I HAVE TRIANGULATED HIS FLIGHT PATTERN, AND DETERMINED THAT HE HAS FLED TO THE ASTEROID BELT-- THERE TO REGROUP WITH HIS ALIEN PARTNERS.

THEN WE MUST TRACK THEM DOWN AND DESTROY THEM LIKE THE VERMIN THEY ARE!

DO YOU STAND WITH US, GUY GARDNER? WILL YOU JOIN IN OUR MISSION?

WHAT... DO I LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT? OF COURSE I'M COMING!

JOINING YOUR LITTLE BUG HUNT IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS MESS! I'M STILL BETTING MY MAN'S BEEN SET UP BY THESE ALIEN CREEPS--!

AND WHAT IF HE HASN'T BEEN, GUY? WHAT IF HE'S GUILTY?

THEN HE'S MINE, MARVEL! I'LL MAKE HIM WISH HE WAS NEVER BORN!

WELL SAID!

"WELL SAID"?! MAXIMA IS AS HOT-HEADED AS GARDNER!

LET'S NOT GO OFF HALF-COCKED! FIRST, WE'LL NEED A SHIP. THERE'S STILL A LOT WE DON'T KNOW--!

WE KNOW ENOUGH, CAPTAIN! WE HAVE SUPERMAN'S COURSE CALCULATIONS, AND WE HAVE TRANSPORT AVAILABLE...

"... MY STARSHIP CAN EASILY HOLD US ALL. TRUE, ITS POWER CELLS HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT DEPLETED, BUT IT SHOULD STILL GET US WHERE WE NEED TO GO--

"-- IF THOSE OF YOU WHO WIELD POWER RINGS AND THE LIKE WILL PROVIDE THE PROPER ENERGIES!"

GOING INTO BATTLE IS NEVER EASY. HAVING YOUR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD ALONG MAKES IT HELL.

KRIPES, THAT'S REALLY THE MOON OUT THERE!

DAD HASN'T SAID MUCH, BUT I CAN TELL THAT HE'S WORRIED.

SO AM I, DAD. SO AM I.

HE CAN'T BE RESPONSIBLE! BUT IF HE IS... I'LL KICK HIS BUTT TILL HIS NOSE BLEEDS, AN' THEN--!

ORBITAL SCANNERS INDICATE THAT THE JUSTICE LEAGUE SHIP HAS ACHIEVED *ESCAPE VELOCITY.*

YOU WERE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT--

--THEY *WERE* EASILY DECEIVED. PERHAPS IT WAS EVEN *BECAUSE* OF THEIR POWERS THAT THEY BELIEVED.

SOME OF THEM SO DESPERATELY WANTED TO *USE* THOSE POWERS TO DO SOMETHING.

PERHAPS. AT ANY RATE, THAT'S ENOUGH DIS-INFORMATION FOR ONE SESSION.

YOU DO THIS WELL. HAD I NOT KNOWN THE TRUTH, THESE FALSE VIDEO FEEDS OF YOURS MIGHT HAVE FOOLED EVEN ME.

BELIEVE IT, BROW! THE CYBORG-MAN IS ONE BAD STUD!

COME, MONGUL. WE HAVE MUCH TO DO BEFORE MY NEXT "PROGRESS REPORT" TO THE AUTHORITIES.

AS YOU WISH.

"AS YOU COMMAND--!" YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CONTROL TRANSMISSIONS, MY DEAR "LEADER!"

I MAY LACK YOUR ABILITY TO GENERATE SUCH CONVINCING FALSE IMAGES--

YES. MOST TRUE-TO-LIFE.

NO, MONGUL. AS I COMMAND.

"--BUT I CAN EASILY CHANNEL THE TRUTH TO WHERE IT WILL DO ME THE MOST GOOD, AND YOU THE MOST HARM..."

OKAY, I'VE GOT ONE ADVANTAGE HERE... THAT CYBORG CREEP STILL DOESN'T REALIZE HOW MY POWERS WORK, OR HE WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT ME ALONE WITH ALL THIS JUNK.

'COURSE, I'M NOT ALL THAT SURE HOW MY POWERS WORK, EITHER. IF I WASN'T SO WASTED, AND THESE BONDS WEREN'T SO $#%* COMPLICATED--

--I'LL BET I COULD'VE RIPPED THROUGH THIS STUFF LONG AGO. TOO BAD I CAN'T JUST *WISH* IT TO PIECES, LIKE SUPERGIRL DOES WITH HER PSYCHO-WHATSIS. SUPERGIRL...

...I WISH YOU WERE HERE NOW. YOU WERE RIGHT... WE SHOULDA WORKED TOGETHER.

÷HUH?!÷

NOW WHY'D THEY GO AN' TURN THE FLOOR SHOW ON AGAIN?

HEY, IF YOU'RE GONNA RUB IT IN, LET'S AT LEAST HAVE SOME SOUND--!

...WE MUST PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH PLANS TO ERECT OUR SECOND ENGINE CITY IN METROPOLIS!

YES, OF COURSE.

METROPOLIS?! NO WAY!!

EVERYONE I KNOW IS IN METROPOLIS... REX... ROXIE... TANA... SUPERGIRL--! I'VE GOTTA GET *OUT* OF THIS PLACE! CAN'T LET ANYTHING STOP ME!

SUPERMAN... THE *FIRST* SUPERMAN... DIDN'T LET DOOMSDAY TRASH HIS TOWN... AND I WON'T LET THESE CREEPS RIP IT DOWN!

THAT CYBORG AND HIS ALIEN FLUNKY ARE GONNA BE SORRY THEY EVER DECIDED TO USE THIS LITTLE *VIDEO TORTURE*--

"--'CAUSE IT'LL BE A COLD DAY IN HELL BEFORE I GIVE UP NOW!"

ANTARCTICA.

HOW FARES THE MASTER?

NOT WELL. HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION HAS BEEN STABILIZED-- BUT HE HAS DRIFTED INTO DELIRIUM.

I... AM... SUPERMAN.

I... AM... THE LAST SON... OF KRYPTON.

THE NUTRIENT BATH IS A POOR SUBSTITUTE FOR THE REGENERATION MATRIX.

AS LONG AS THIS MENTAL CONFUSION CONTINUES, THERE IS DANGER THAT HIS MIND WILL DISCORPORATE.

I... AM SUPERMAN.

WHERE... WHERE IS THE POWER?

IF HE IS TO BE SAVED, WE MUST CURE HIS DELIRIUM.

THERE WILL BE RISKS, BUT WE CAN FORGE A LINK TO HIS INNERMOST PSYCHE...

...BRING HIM ON-LINE WITH FORTRESS MEMORY BANKS, AND MAKE HIM ACCEPT HIS ORIGINS.

Downloading...you were created 200,000 years ago on the planet Krypton.

I... WAS...?

You began as an integrated analysis and weapons system. Your creator called you the ERADICATOR.

In time, you developed sentience...and came into the possession of Krypton's last living survivor, KAL-EL the SUPERMAN. But he resisted your efforts to preserve the Kryptonian way.

KAL-EL... RESISTED ME? BUT...

He sought to destroy you, but you became one with the power of Earth's sun, and were re-formed as a humanoid.

You set out to remake this Earth as a new Krypton...only to be opposed anew by Kal-El.

Again and again, you did battle, until, ultimately, he defeated you. Your energies and memory were dispersed within the walls of this Fortress which you had created.

"THE BATTLE... I REMEMBER. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN MY END, HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE FAILSAFES PROGRAMMED INTO THE FORTRESS'S ROBOTIC SERVITORS."

Correct. They collected and contained your energies, recreating you in mind, though not in body.

"I REMEMBER ... FEELING DISEMBODIED. THERE WERE... GAPS IN MY MEMORY..."

You accessed Fortress monitors and learned of Kal-El's battle to the death with the monster Doomsday.

"YES. I... I SAW... IN THAT DEATH ... A CHANCE FOR NEW LIFE."

You flew to Metropolis to take over his body.

"Y-YES... BUT THERE WAS... RESISTANCE. AS I SOUGHT ... TO POSSESS THE BODY, KAL-EL'S OWN ESSENCE ASSERTED ITSELF. MY ENERGIES JOINED WITH THOSE STORED IN THE BODY BUT BRIEFLY...

"... I WAS... BARELY ABLE TO CREATE A MATTER/ENERGY FLUX. I... DREW MASS FROM WITHIN THE TOMB... CREATING A NEW BODY FOR MYSELF.

"KAL-EL'S PERFECT KRYPTONIAN FORM WAS MY MODEL.

"BUT MY NEW BODY WAS NOT PERFECT. MY EYES WERE LIGHT SENSITIVE... I COULD NO LONGER DIRECTLY CHANNEL THE POWER OF THE SUN."

Kal-El's body, however, could. You brought it back to the Fortress and had it placed within a matrix.

"I DID. YES...

"... MY REBIRTH HAD CHANGED ME IN MANY WAYS. I FELT STRANGE URGES... PASSIONS. PERHAPS IT WAS BECAUSE MY NEW BODY WAS MADE IN HIS IMAGE."

You had assumed his form and drawn upon his power. You began to see yourself in his role.

You preserved his body to absorb and convert solar energy into a form which you could then tap.

"I BECAME KRYPTON'S LAST SON..."

You became irrational. Fortress servitors reinforced your delusions...

...They followed their programming to obey the commands of Kryptonian intelligences.

"WITH THEIR AID, I BECAME SUPERMAN. THE POWER..."

...THE POWER OF SUPERMAN WAS MINE. I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD LEAVE ME.

WITHOUT IT, I AM NOTHING ...NOTHING BUT AN ARTIFACT OF A DEAD WORLD.

PROGNOSIS?

UNCERTAIN. BACK-FEED LOOP SUGGESTS THAT THE ERADICATOR HAS ENDED HIS SELF-DENIAL.

THERE IS A CHANCE HE CAN BE MOTI-VATED TO RECOVER.

MOTIVATION IS NOT ENOUGH--NOR IS THE NUTRIENT BATH SUFFICIENT TO CORRECT HIS BODILY INJURIES. HE MUST BE RE-ENERGIZED.

BUT HOW? MASTER KAL-EL WAS BY FAR HIS BEST CONDUIT FOR ENERGY--

"--AND HE IS BEYOND OUR POWER TO CONTACT OR RECALL."

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN, JUST OFF THE COAST OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS...

I can't believe these readings.

I knew that this walking tank could truck, but the speed it's maintaining is nothing short of phenomenal--especially at such a depth!

At this rate, I ought to arrive in a matter of hours. It can't be soon enough, as far as I'm concerned.

KROOM

What was that? Did the War-Suit's defense systems kick in again?

I wish I could tell what's going ON out there...

...but I'm basically riding inside this thing, DEAF, DUMB AND BLIND!

I suppose I shouldn't complain. After the pounding the Eradicator once gave this War-Suit,* it's astounding that the Fortress robots were able to get any of its systems back on line.

* IN THE CLASSIC ACTION #667.

This is frustrating... I have locomotion, life-support, and defense... but NO communications!

At least the navigation system constantly updates my latitude and longitude... I know that I'm still on course.

I just wish that I had a functioning radio, so I could tell people that I'm coming -- AND find out what's going on!

From the last news I heard in the Fortress, there were at least FOUR Superman pretenders on the loose in Metropolis -- and two of them were duking it out over the rights to the name! *

God knows what ELSE has happened since I've set out! One thing's for sure, putting an end to all this nonsense is most definitely a job --

-- for the REAL Superman!

* JUST LAST ISSUE.

NEXT:

IN MAN OF STEEL #25: "THE RETURN!"

•

IN SUPERMAN #81: "RESURRECTIONS!"

•

IN ADVENTURES #504: "ASSAULT ON ENGINE CITY!"

•

AND DON'T YOU DARE MISS ACTION COMICS #691: "SECRET WEAPON!"

BEHIND MY BACK, THEY CALL ME SUPERBOY! WITH THE EMPHASIS ON "BOY"!

MAYBE THEY'RE RIGHT! DARN!

RIPPING FREE OF THIS TRAP WOULD BE CHILD'S PLAY FOR SUPERMAN...

BUT I'M HIS CLONE... AREN'T I?

SO WHY IS IT THAT, NO MATTER HOW HARD I STRUGGLE... I CAN'T GET FREE!?

AND I HAVE TO!

'CAUSE NOW I KNOW PART TWO OF THE CYBORG'S EVIL PLAN!

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THE RETURN!

HE DESTROYED COAST CITY... YEAH. AND GREW THIS GIANT ENGINE CITY IN ITS PLACE.

BUT THAT WASN'T ENOUGH FOR HIM.

THERE'S GONNA BE ANOTHER ENGINE CITY. AND ITS SITE IS GOING TO BE...

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"...METROPOLIS."

SOME OF OUR SCIENTISTS WERE RELUCTANT TO BOTHER YOU WITH THIS, MR. LUTHOR...

...BUT I FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT!

WE CAN'T TELL WHAT'S UNDER THERE, SIR.

BUT IT'S TRAVELING RAPIDLY ENOUGH TO CREATE A MASSIVE WAKE ON THE OCEAN'S SURFACE.

IT HASN'T DONE ANYTHING AGGRESSIVE... YET. BUT IT'S HEADING NORTH, SIR. TOWARD METROPOLIS.

COAST CITY HAS BEEN DESTROYED. AND WHATEVER IS UNDER THERE COULD THREATEN METROPOLIS IN THE SAME WAY.

CONTACT THE LEXSCIENCE RESEARCH SUB. TELL THEM TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS.

WHEN THEY DO, PUT THEM THROUGH TO MY PRIVATE NUMBER.

THE VISORED LAST SON OF KRYPTON IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF COAST CITY...

"...THE CYBORG AND SUPERBOY ARE FIGHTING HIM THERE."

WITH THE TWO OF US WORKING TOGETHER, NO SWEAT!

I WISH I'D HAD SUCH CONFIDENCE IN MY POWERS WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE!

BDAM!

BRAM!

BLAM!

SKRASZH!

"ONLY THE ARMORED MAN OF STEEL IS LEFT TO GUARD METROPOLIS AGAINST THIS FAST-APPROACHING MENACE!"

CAN'T BELIEVE LAST SON OF KRYPTON WENT BAD.

THOUGHT I'D GOTTEN THROUGH TO HIM.

HE BACKED OFF FROM FIGHTING ME.

VIRTUALLY HANDED ME METROPOLIS TO PROTECT.

BRAM! BLAM! BAM! BDAM! BRAK!

BUT THE ATTACK ON COAST CITY WASN'T A SPUR OF THE MOMENT DECISION.

IT HAD TO HAVE BEEN PLANNED FOR A WHILE.

OOPH!

WHAM!

COAST CITY'S DESTRUCTION AFFECTS THE ENTIRE PLANET.

AND IF THE WORLD IS COMPROMISED, THERE GOES METROPOLIS.

LAST WEEK, I FOUGHT THE KRYPTONIAN TO A STANDSTILL.*

THOOMB!

THOOMB!

SO WHY IS HE GIVING THE CYBORG AND SUPERBOY COMBINED SUCH A HARD TIME NOW?

IT DOESN'T ADD UP!

*IN MOS #24.

FSSSSSST!

FIRST, I TURN IN THESE WOULD-BE DRUG-LORDS!

THEN, WHILE THERE'S STILL A WORLD TO SAVE, I HEAD FOR...

"... WHAT'S LEFT OF COAST CITY!"

THE HUMAN FOOLS STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT LIES BENEATH THE SMOKE THAT SHROUDS ENGINE CITY, MONGUL.

MY FALSE BROADCASTS DETAILING THE PERILS THE SUPER-BOY AND I FACE AS WE BATTLE THE KRYPTONIAN...

...KEPT THEM FROM APPROACHING TOO CLOSELY.

AS THEY LURED MOST OF EARTH'S HEROES AWAY INTO SPACE, LORD.

BY THE TIME THE HUMANS LEARN OF YOUR DECEPTION, IT WILL BE TOO LATE!

SUPERBOY HAS BEEN FIGHTING HIS RESTRAINT FOR HOURS. HE CAN'T BREAK FREE AND HE'S STARTING TO PANIC.

LET HIM! IT WILL DO HIM NO HARM--

BRANGA! BRANGA!

THE ALARM! SUPERBOY HAS ESCAPED! BUT HOW--?!?

AWESOME! I GOT REALLY SCARED AND... FREAKED! AND THE RESTRAINT BLEW APART!

PANICKY POWER BLASTS?

IT'S NOT ONE OF SUPERMAN'S POWERS! BUT IT SURE SEEMS TO BE ONE OF MINE!

I'M MIND-BABBLING! BETTER FADE FAST IN CASE I SET OFF ANY ALARMS!

THEN WHAT? TAKE OUT THE CYBORG? THEN MONGUL?

ME AND WHAT ARMY? THE CYBORG HAS ALREADY HAD ME FOR BREAKFAST!

SOMEBODY'S COMING! QUICK, UP THE WALL, QUICK!

THEY'RE AFTER ME, ALL RIGHT! 'CAUSE I KNOW THE CYBORG'S DIRTY SECRETS!

HOW HE TRICKED THE WORLD!

HOW HE'S REALLY THE BAD GUY!

HOW METROPOLIS IS NEXT ON HIS HIT LIST!

I CAN'T STOP HIM ALONE. THE VISORED KRYPTONIAN IS DEAD. THE JLA ARE IN SPACE.

BUT THE MAN OF STEEL IS LEFT!

MAYBE WE CAN SAVE METROPOLIS TOGETHER!

NO COCKY HEROICS THIS TIME! NO GRAND-STANDING!

DON'T BLOW IT. USE MY HEAD. GET IT RIGHT!

WISH I COULD FLY THERE FASTER THAN SOUND... LIKE SUPERMAN.

JUST DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY!

BE LUCKY TO REACH METROPOLIS BY MORNING.

WHY AM I SO DARNED APATHETIC?

YOU'RE BROODING, RIGHT? 'CAUSE THE MONARCHS ARE LAST IN THEIR DIVISION?

COAST CITY HAS BEEN DESTROYED! AND THE PLANET'S TOP REPORTER IS BROODING IN A SPORTS BAR!

YOU ALWAYS WERE A SPORTS-NUT, THOUGH.

REMEMBER THE SERIES PREDICTION YOU WROTE FOR THE CAMPUS PAPER?

YEAH, I MISS CLARK. BUT THAT'S NO EXCUSE.

LXSN

CABLE 24 HOUR SPORTS

YOUR TEAM LOST. I SAID YOU DIDN'T REALLY HAVE TO EAT YOUR PREDICTION, BUT--

SURELY I HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO--

WE TEMPORARILY INTERRUPT THIS SPORTSCAST...

...TO BRING YOU THIS IMPORTANT BULLETIN.

I HAVE GRAVE NEWS. YOUNG SUPERMAN HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY THE LAST SON OF KRYPTON...

...BRAINWASHED, AND RELEASED TO DO HIS BIDDING.

HE IS NOW DANGEROUS. DO NOT BELIEVE HIS TALES, NOR AID HIM IN HIS EFFORTS.

AS A BOY, I USED MY POWERS FOR GOOD. BUT THE POWERS OF MY CLONE HAVE BEEN TURNED TO EVIL.

WHOEVER THAT CYBORG IS, HE'S NOT CLARK! CLARK DIDN'T HAVE POWERS AS A KID.

AND IF HE'S LYING ABOUT THAT, WHAT ELSE IS HE LYING ABOUT? WHAT'S HIS GAME?

YOU'RE STILL BROODING.

I DON'T TRUST THAT CYBORG, JEB. HE'S UP TO SOMETHING.

HE'S IN COAST CITY, LOIS, LAYING HIS LIFE ON THE LINE. HE'S ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS!

IS HE?

I THINK SO.

SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO COME IN FOR A... NIGHTCAP? I COULD TAKE YOUR MIND OFF YOUR TROUBLES...

IN YOUR DREAMS, JEBSTER.

IF THIS IS A DREAM, NOBODY WAKE ME UP!

"OH, LORD, WHAT WAS I DOING... KISSING JEB... LETTING JEB KISS ME?

"HE WAS GOING ON AND ON ABOUT SPORTS. WHAT DOES JEB CARE ABOUT SPORTS?"

HE WAS TRYING TO CHEER ME UP. HE CARES ABOUT ME. IN HIS WAY, HE'S ALWAYS CARED.

THAT MAKES IT WORSE. DOESN'T IT?

OH, GOD, WHAT HAVE I DONE?

I'M SO CONFUSED ...SO LONELY.

CLARK, CLARK, WHERE ARE YOU? THE WORLD NEEDS YOU. I NEED YOU!

TAP! TAP!

CLARK-- KNOCKING ON MY WINDOW! LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES!

ONLY A BIRD!

HE'S BACK! HE'S NOT DEAD AFTER--

ROSES... FROM THAT LOSER JEB!

HA! LOIS DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE! GOOD! SERVES THE CREEP RIGHT!

I NEED A CHALLENGING ASSIGNMENT... AWAY FROM JEB... WHERE I CAN THINK!

SPIN Doc

I DON'T TRUST THE CYBORG, PERRY. I'M GOING TO COAST CITY!

I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON!

ABSOLUTELY NOT!

WALKING INTO POSSIBLE DANGER IN PURSUIT OF A STORY IS GOOD JOURNALISM!

WALKING INTO A DEATH TRAP IS JUST PLAIN STUPID!

PERRY WHITE

EDITO

THIS TIME YOU WON'T HAVE SUPERMAN TO PULL YOU OUT IF YOU GET IN TOO DEEP...

...AND I WON'T COUNTENANCE YOU GETTING YOURSELF KILLED FOR--

SUPERMAN NEVER "PULLED ME OUT" OF ANYTHING I COULDN'T HAVE "PULLED OUT OF" MYSELF!

FACE IT, PERRY! YOU CAN'T STOP ME!

I'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME WAITING FOR A MIRACLE THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN!

ITC

I'VE OPTED OUT OF LIFE FOR LONG ENOUGH. FINALLY... THE REAL LOIS LANE IS BACK!

LISTEN, LEX. THE CYBORG SAID SUPERBOY HAD BEEN CAPTURED AND BRAINWASHED BY THE KRYPTONIAN.

AND I'VE BEEN THINKING...

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE HAVE GONE INTO SPACE TO COMBAT THE MENACE...

...BUT I THINK THE MENACE IS STILL HERE ON EARTH.

NO ONE KNOWS WHAT'S UNDER THE SMOKE AND DEBRIS THAT'S COVERING COAST CITY.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE IN, AND--

YOU'RE NOT GOING THERE! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID WHEN DOOMSDAY FOUGHT SUPERMAN.

I DIDN'T HELP TILL THE LAST MINUTE AND NOW SUPERMAN IS DEAD.

I'M GOING TO COAST CITY. I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW WHERE I WAS.

RING! RING!

WHAT?! A GIANT ROBOT?! HEADING FOR METROPOLIS?!!

IF THIS IS A TRICK TO KEEP ME HERE, IT WON'T WORK!

IT'S NO TRICK! LISTEN TO THE SCIENTISTS WHO ARE OBSERVING IT!

COMMANDER STUART, TELL SUPERGIRL WHAT YOU SEE!

IT APPEARS TO BE A GIANT ROBOT...

...ADVANCING RAPIDLY NORTH ALONG THE BOTTOM OF THE ATLANTIC BELOW THE CONTINENTAL SHELF.

MAYBE IT'S LIKE THE DOOMSDAY MONSTER!

IT SEEMS OBLIVIOUS TO US... OR MAYBE IT DOESN'T CARE.

MAYBE THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO TO STOP IT.

MR. LUTHOR, WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW, SIR?

DROP A DEPTH CHARGE IN THE ROBOT'S PATH.

"WE'LL SEE HOW IT REACTS."

DIRECT HIT!

YES!

BDANG!

NO! OH, NO!

BARROOOM!

WHAT HAPPENED?

AAARG!

"DID THE ROBOT ATTACK THEM?

"OR DID THE DETONATION CAUSE AN AVALANCHE THAT CRUSHED THE SUB?

"WHATEVER HAPPENED, THE ROBOT MAY STILL BE ACTIVE..."

...AND, THROUGH IT, I WILL EXTEND MY CONTROL OVER SUPERGIRL!

THE SCIENTISTS! I HAVE TO SAVE THEM!

SUPERGIRL! WAIT! THINK! IT'S TOO LATE!

THE ROBOT KILLED THEM. THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD!

THAT THING MIGHT BE ANOTHER DOOMSDAY... OR EVEN WHAT ATTACKED COAST CITY.

AND, AT THE SPEED IT'S TRAVELING, IT WILL ARRIVE AT METROPOLIS IN HALF AN HOUR.

O'HARA AIRPORT IN THE OAKTOWN SECTION OF METROPOLIS.

LOOKS LIKE THE MAN OF STEEL!

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

HITCHING A RIDE TO COAST CITY.

WANT TO HAVE SOME POWER LEFT ONCE I GET THERE.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

I'M GOING THERE, TOO! THE CYBORG CLAIMS HE WAS FULL-POWERED AS AN ADOLESCENT...

... BUT SUPERMAN ONCE TOLD ME HIS POWERS DEVELOPED MUCH MORE SLOWLY.

IF HE'S LYING ABOUT THAT, HE COULD BE LYING ABOUT OTHER THINGS!

JKB-143

I KNOW. I WONDER WHY I WAS ABLE TO FIGHT THE KRYPTONIAN TO A STANDSTILL...

... WHILE SUPERBOY AND THE CYBORG TOGETHER CAN'T. IT DOESN'T GIBE. I DON'T TRUST HIM, EITHER.

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR. WANT TO HITCH A RIDE WITH--

LOOK, IT'S SUPERGIRL! WONDER WHAT SHE'S DOING HERE?

IT'S COMING!

OH, LORD! IT'S HERE!

IT'S BIG!

WHAT IF IT *IS* LIKE DOOMSDAY? WHAT IF I CAN'T *STOP* IT?

SUPERGIRL, CAN YOU HEAR ME THROUGH THE EAR-PHONE? LISTEN TO ME!

IT'S CLIMBING ONTO LAND! DON'T LET IT GET ANY FURTHER!

YEAH! GOOD--

--IDEA!

KRASH!

LEX'S CHOPPER!

OH, NO! LEX!

SOMETHING'S GOING DOWN!

NOW THAT I'M IN METROPOLIS, HOW'M I GONNA FIND THE MAN OF STEEL?

MAYBE I OUGHT TO GO TO THE MAYOR INSTEAD. OR WGBS.

THEY'LL WARN PEOPLE TO EVACUATE, AND--

SOUNDS LIKE TROUBLE AT O'HARA. HOPE THE CYBORG HASN'T ALREADY MADE HIS MOVE!

KRASH!

SUPERGIRL, WHAT--?

THAT ROBOT DESTROYED A SUB FILLED WITH SCIENTISTS! NOW IT'S ATTACKING METROPOLIS!

SUPERGIRL HAS BEEN DISTRACTED FROM GOING TO COAST CITY.

AND THE ADVENT OF THIS MENACE WILL CONVINCE HER TO REMAIN WITH ME IN METROPOLIS!

WHATEVER THAT MONSTER CAME HERE FOR...

...IT'S NOT GETTING IT!

KTAKTHOOM!

THING'S GOT ME! FIST LIKE A VISE! GOT TO GET FREE!

THOOMB THOOMB THOOMB

WATCH IT!

HE WOULD! HE'S GOT SOME KIND OF PROGRAM THAT LETS HIM FAKE BROADCASTS!

THE KRYPTONIAN'S DEAD AND THE CYBORG'S REALLY THE BAD GUY! HE--

...THAT YOU'RE WORKING WITH THE KRYPTONIAN!

CYBORG CLAIMS YOU'VE BEEN BRAINWASHED...

WAIT! LET ME GET YOU OUT OF THERE! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TOUCH HIM...

...WITH MY FOOT IS GOOD ENOUGH... AND CONCENTRATE AND I CAN MAKE HIM DROP YOU!

IF I'M LUCKY!

HE DID IT! HE FREED ME! AND SOMETHING TELLS ME HE'S RIGHT ON THE MONEY ABOUT THE CYBORG!

THE CYBORG'S LYING! I'D BET MY LIFE ON IT!

HIT IT HARD! CREAM IT!

KRWAAM

IT'S MOVING! GET BACK! I'LL--

WAIT! SUPERMAN TOLD ME ONCE ABOUT WALKING KRYPTONIAN TANKS CALLED BATTLE-SUITS.

THEY WOULD HAVE *LOOKED* LIKE THAT. THAT... MAY BE *ONE* OF THEM!

ARE YOU SAYING THIS *THING* HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH SUPERMAN? 'CAUSE OTHERWISE, WE'RE IN TROUBLE!

IT'S LURCHING TO ITS FEET!

A CHAMBER IN ITS CARAPACE IS *OPENING*! SOMETHING... SOMEONE IS COMING OUT!

IF THIS IS THE GUY WHO BLEW UP COAST CITY--

CAN'T TELL YET, LOIS--

BOG-DANK

"--BUT THAT'S *WHY* I CAME BACK TO METROPOLIS!

"'CAUSE THE BAD GUY *AIN'T* THE KRYPTONIAN--

"--IT'S THE CYBORG! HE'S IN LEAGUE WITH AN ALIEN NAMED *MONGUL*.

"THERE'S A GIANT ENGINE GROWING WHERE COAST CITY USED TO BE.

"AND METROPOLIS IS GOING TO BE THEIR NEXT TARGET!"

METROPOLIS--?

OVER MY DEAD BODY!

FREEZE, MISTER. METROPOLIS IS OURS.
THE MAN AIN'T YANKIN' YA, PAL!
YOU WANT TROUBLE, WE'LL GIVE IT TO YOU BIG TIME!

DON'T LET THE OUTFIT FOOL YOU.

I'M SUPERMAN-- AND I'M BACK.

WE...WE THOUGHT YOU WERE ATTACKING THE CITY...

FOR ALL WE KNOW YOU *STILL* GOT THAT IN MIND!

WATCH HIM CLOSELY. THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THIS MAN HAS UP HIS SLEEVE.

RESURRECTIONS

DAN JURGENS
story & art

BRETT BREEDING
finished art

JOHN COSTANZA
letterer

GLENN WHITMORE
colorist

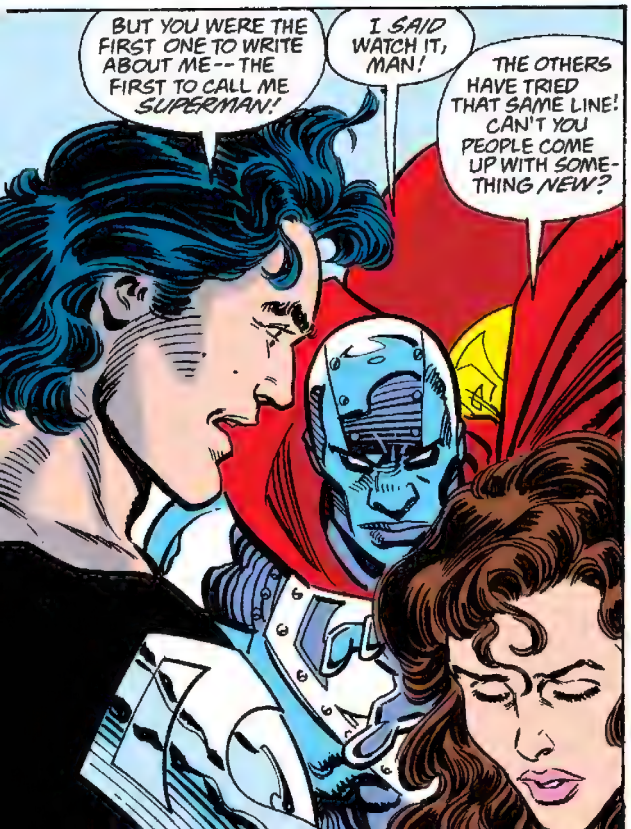
SOME HOMECOMING. I REALIZE I'VE BEEN AWAY AWHILE--

--BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT TO BE PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE WHEN I RETURNED!

YOU INTERVIEWED ME SEVERAL TIMES, MS. LANE. SURELY *YOU* RECOGNIZE ME?

HE... LOOKS AND SOUNDS SO MUCH LIKE CLARK...
BUT SOME OF THE OTHERS WERE CONVINCING TOO!
I'M SORRY! BUT YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST GUY TO HIT METROPOLIS CLAIMING TO BE SUPERMAN THIS YEAR!

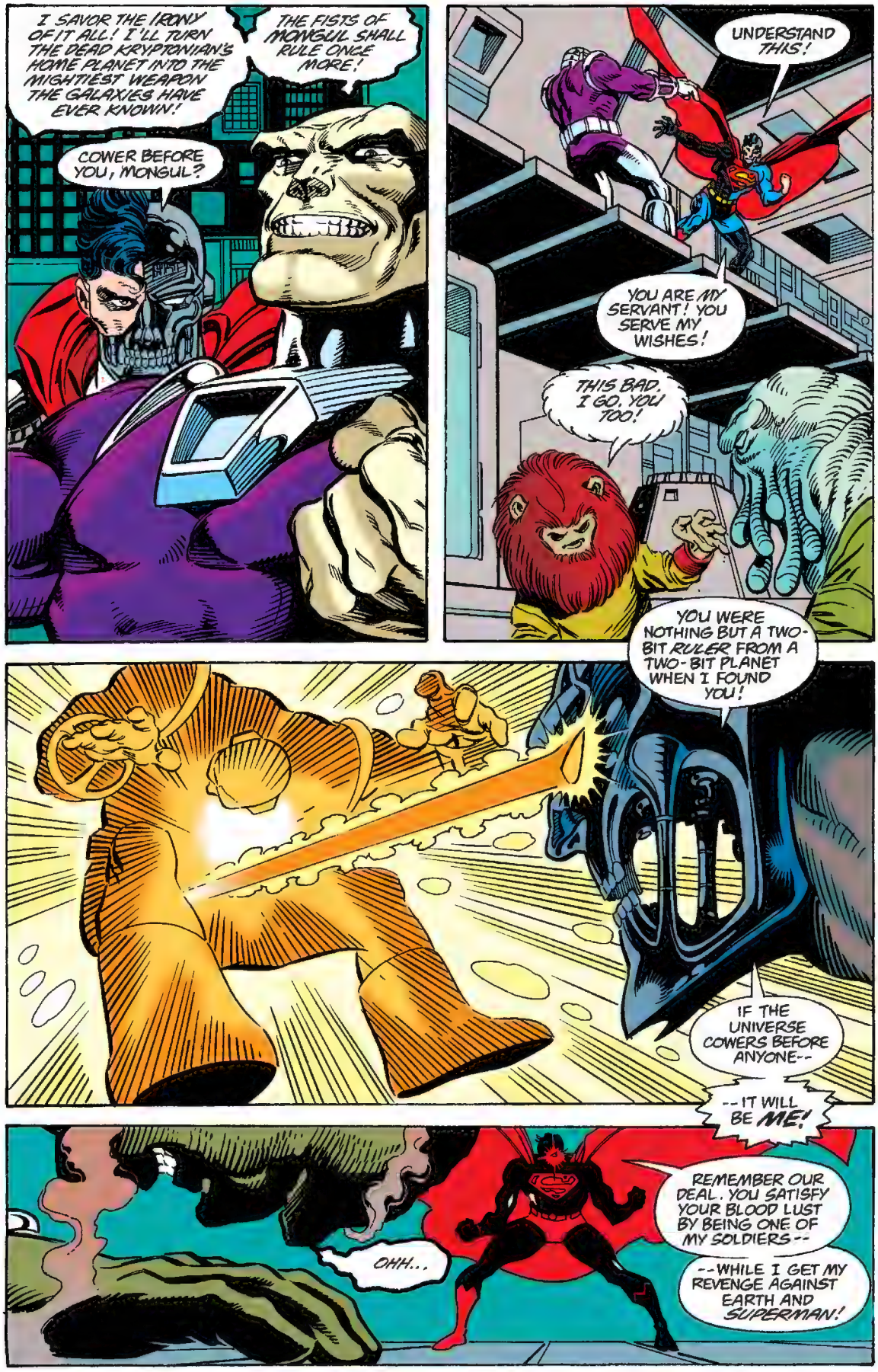
APPARENTLY NOT. YOU MUST BE TWO OF THE FOUR I HEARD ABOUT.
WATCH IT.
51
PLEASE, I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHO TO BELIEVE ANYMORE...


BUT YOU WERE THE FIRST ONE TO WRITE ABOUT ME--THE FIRST TO CALL ME SUPERMAN!
I SAID WATCH IT, MAN!
THE OTHERS HAVE TRIED THAT SAME LINE! CAN'T YOU PEOPLE COME UP WITH SOMETHING NEW?

HEY! YOU'RE DIGGING IN PRETTY HARD!
I SAID TO LEAVE THE LADY ALONE! AND IF THIS SIMPLE SQUEEZE CAN HURT YOU--
--THEN THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE REALLY SUPERMAN!

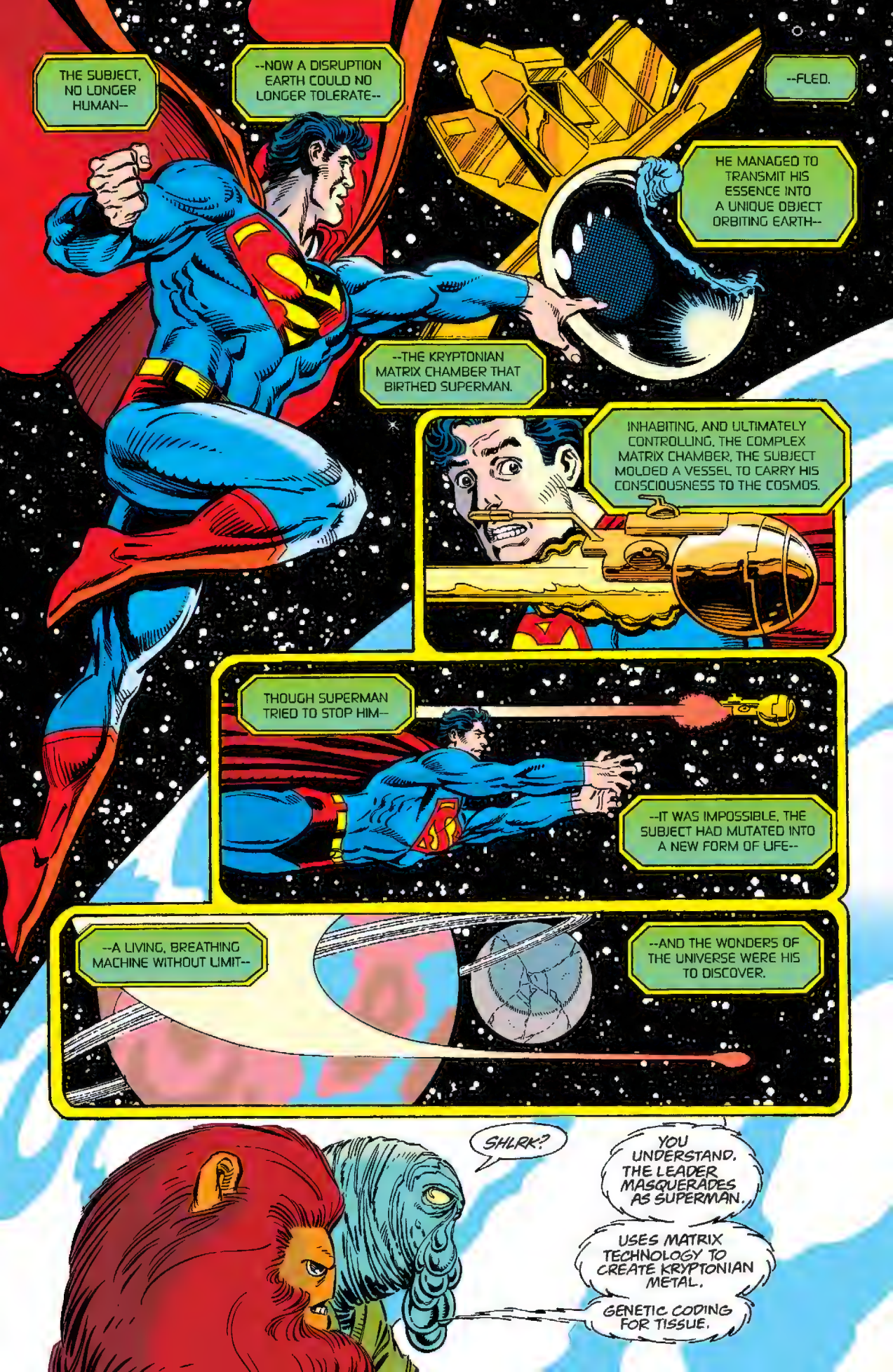
I WAS TAKEN ABOUT AS FAR DOWN AS ANYONE CAN GO-- I'M NOT TOTALLY RECOVERED YET!
THAT'S WHY I NEEDED THAT KRYPTONIAN WAR SUIT TO GET HERE.
WELL...
MS. LANE, I'LL NEED HELP CONVINCING THE REST OF THE WORLD OF MY STORY. WILL YOU GIVE ME FIVE MINUTES OF YOUR TIME IN PRIVATE?
PLEASE?
HOW ABOUT IT? GIVE ME ONE REASON WHY I SHOULD GIVE YOU THE TIME OF DAY.
SHE DOESN'T BELIEVE ME! UNLESS...
HOW ABOUT, "TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD"?
CLARK'S ALL-TIME FAVORITE MOVIE? COULD IT BE--?
LOOK, I'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS WITH FOUR OTHERS ALREADY.
UNLESS YOU HAVE SOMETHING CONVINCING I REALLY DON'T SEE THE NEED TO PURSUE THIS FURTHER!
HEY, WE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT THAN WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE SUPES!
SUCH AS?
COAST CITY! IT'S GONE! OBLITERATED! DESTROYED!
ONE OF THE OTHER TWO PRE-TENDERS TO THE THRONE IS ACTUALLY OUT THERE NOW BUILDING--

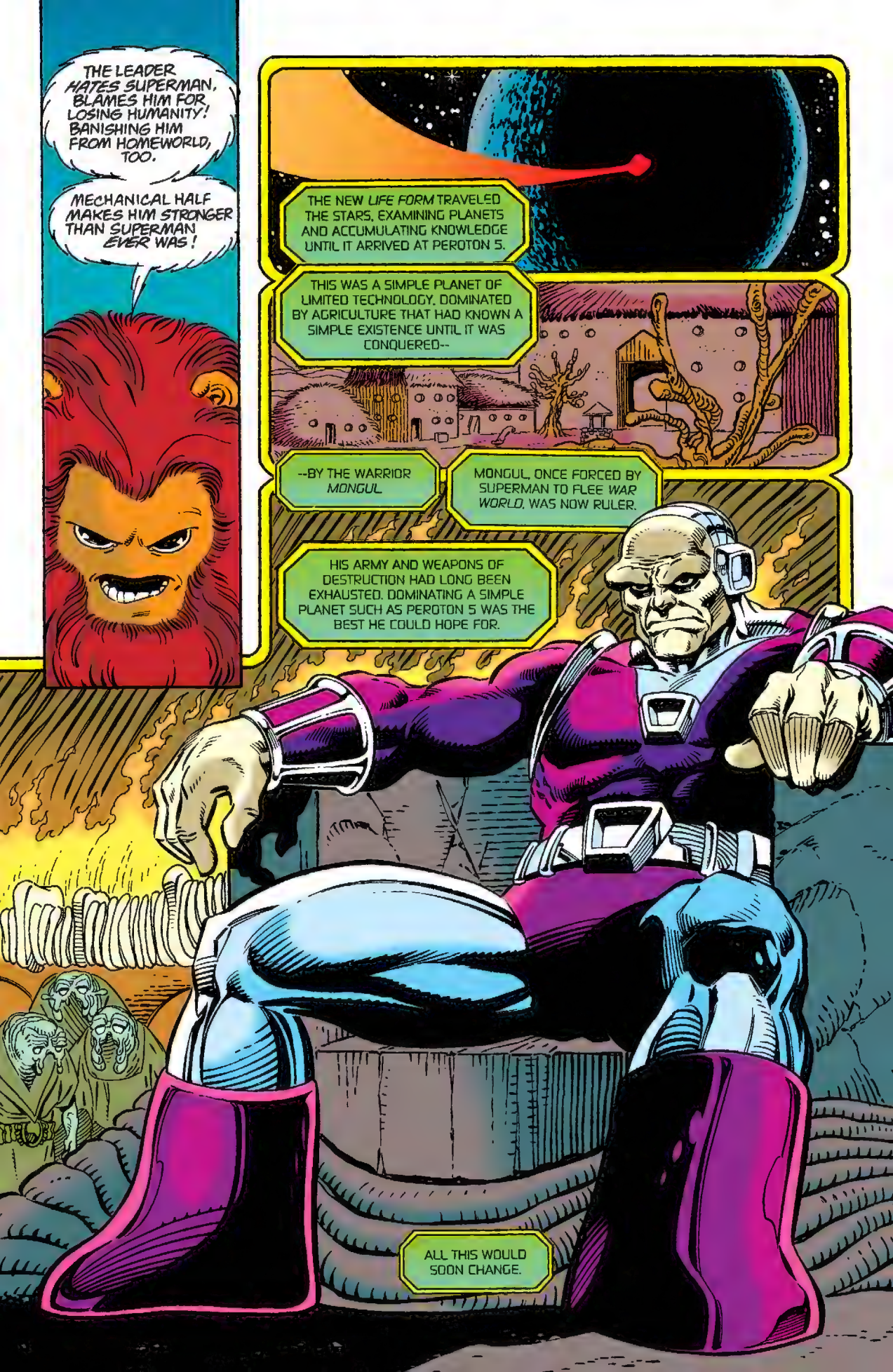
"--THE BIGGEST FREAKIN' ENGINE YOU EVER LAID EYES ON!"
STATUS REPORT, MONGUL.
THE WARHEAD WILL SOON BE LOADED WITH THE ARMAMENT NEEDED TO DESTROY METROPOLIS, LEADER!
I'LL REDUCE THAT INFERNAL CITY TO ASH--
--JUST AS I CRUSHED COAST CITY!
GOOD. WE ARE CLOSE TO THE REALIZATION OF MY DREAM!
A PLANET WE CAN BLAST OUT OF THE SUN'S ORBIT TO FUNCTION AS A SPACE-GOING VESSEL.
WARWORLD REBORN!
COUNTLESS PLANETS SHALL COWER BEFORE MY MILITARY MIGHT ONCE AGAIN!


I SAVOR THE IRONY OF IT ALL! I'LL TURN THE DEAD KRYPTONIAN'S HOME PLANET INTO THE MIGHTIEST WEAPON THE GALAXIES HAVE EVER KNOWN!
THE FISTS OF MONGUL SHALL RULE ONCE MORE!
COWER BEFORE YOU, MONGUL?
UNDERSTAND THIS!
YOU ARE MY SERVANT! YOU SERVE MY WISHES!
THIS BAD. I GO. YOU TOO!
YOU WERE NOTHING BUT A TWO-BIT RULER FROM A TWO-BIT PLANET WHEN I FOUND YOU!
IF THE UNIVERSE COWERS BEFORE ANYONE--
--IT WILL BE ME!
REMEMBER OUR DEAL. YOU SATISFY YOUR BLOOD LUST BY BEING ONE OF MY SOLDIERS--
--WHILE I GET MY REVENGE AGAINST EARTH AND SUPERMAN!
OHH...

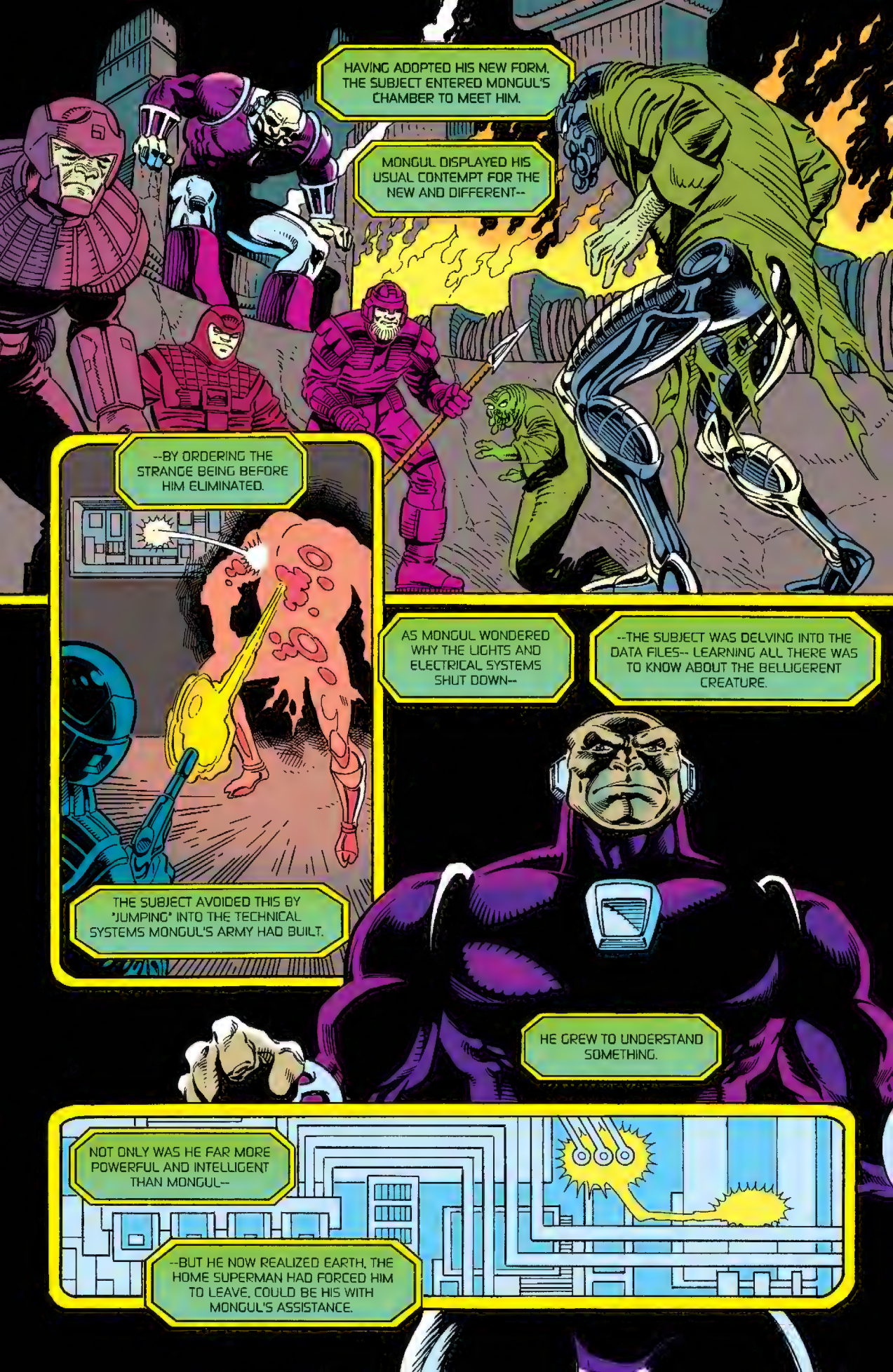
MOVE!
INDEED. WE GO, WE MOVE.
SHLEEP!
SHLORT SHLEEP?
WANT KNOW WHO HIM IS?
HE BAD. VERY BAD.
I KNOW TRUE. ONE OF FEW WHO DOES.
FOUND OUT WHEN "SCRUBBING" DATA BANKS.
SHAREET CHORP?
I TELL YOU. I KNOW TRUE.
POCKET 'PUTER SHOW YOU ALL.
SUBJECT WAS AN EARTH HUMAN, ORIGINALLY PART OF ITS NASA SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM.
HIS SHUTTLE WAS BOMBARDED BY STRANGE RADIATION WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY FORCED THE SHIP TO CRASH.
AS A RESULT THE SUBJECT AND THREE OF HIS COMRADES GAINED FANTASTIC POWERS... AND FACED DIRE CONSEQUENCES.

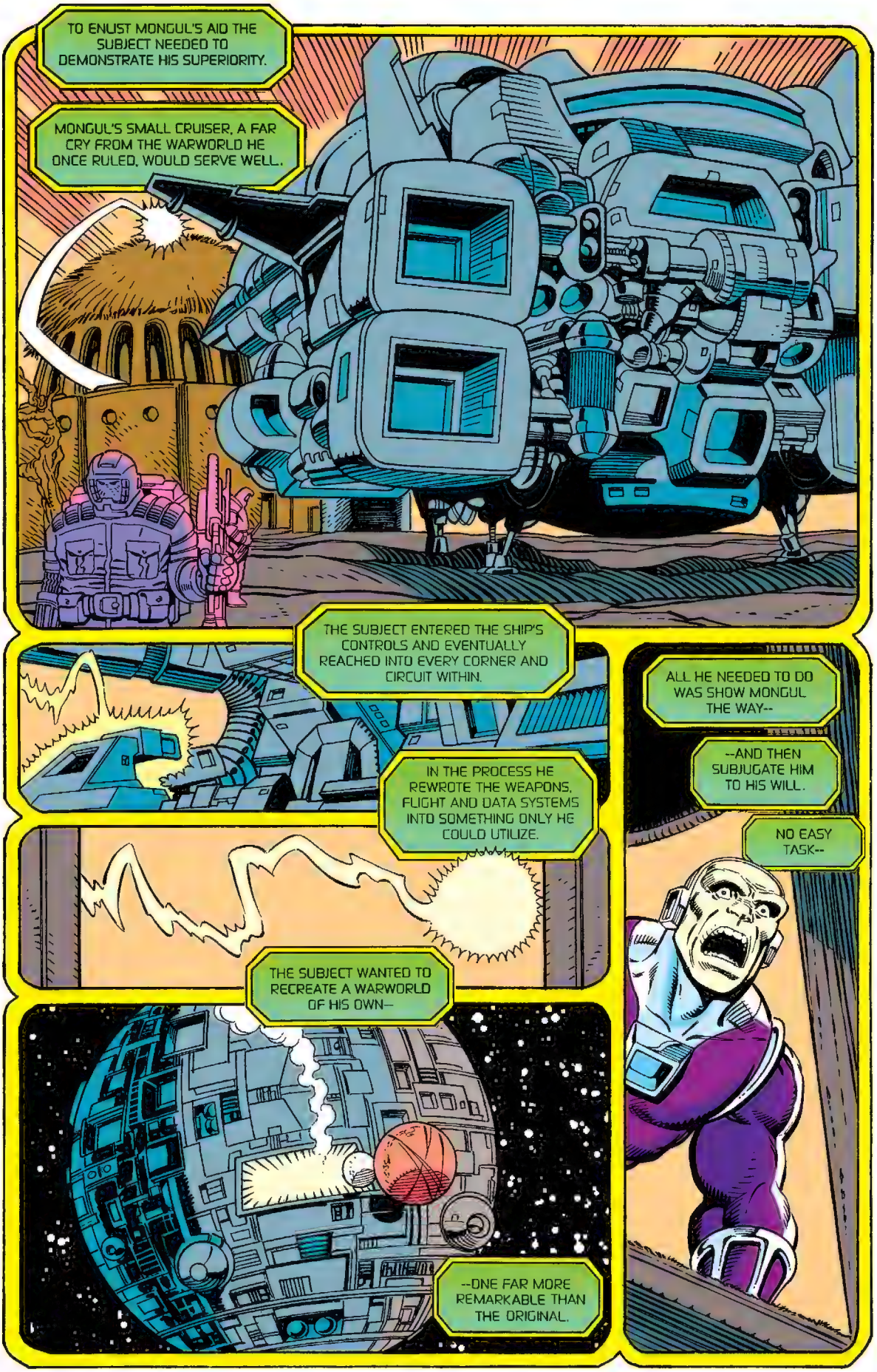
THE ASTRONAUTS QUICKLY DISCOVERED THAT THE COSMIC RADIATION WOULD PROVE FATAL.
IN FACT, THE SUBJECT DIED WHILE USING HIS GENIUS TO SAVE HIS WIFE FROM THE CREW'S DIRE FATE.
SUPERMAN, PRESENT AT THE TIME, PRESUMED THE MATTER OVER BUT--
SHWOTT! SHOOOPERMANN!
YOU HEAR TRUE.
HAPPENED ON EARTH, CONTINUE NOW.
--THE SUBJECT HAD NOT DIED.
HIS CONSCIOUSNESS TRANSFERRED INTO THE COMPUTER CONSOLE IN FRONT OF HIM.
HE BECAME A MASTER OF TECHNICAL MATTERS--
--ABLE TO REASSEMBLE HIMSELF BY COMBINING ANY MACHINERY IN THE VICINITY.
IN TIME THE SUBJECT CONSTRUCTED A MECHANICAL FORM IN ORDER TO RETURN ONCE AGAIN TO HIS WIFE.
UNFORTUNATELY, HIS PHYSICAL DEATH AND CURRENT BIZARRE APPEARANCE, COMBINED WITH THE EFFECTS OF THE RADIATION, DROVE HER MAD... AND ULTIMATELY TO THE GRAVE.
IN ADDITION, THE SUBJECT'S NEW ELECTROMECHANICAL PRESENCE WAS SO POWERFUL THAT HE DISRUPTED EARTH'S ENTIRE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.


THE SUBJECT, NO LONGER HUMAN--
--NOW A DISRUPTION EARTH COULD NO LONGER TOLERATE--
--FLED.
HE MANAGED TO TRANSMIT HIS ESSENCE INTO A UNIQUE OBJECT ORBITING EARTH--
--THE KRYPTONIAN MATRIX CHAMBER THAT BIRTHED SUPERMAN.
INHABITING, AND ULTIMATELY CONTROLLING, THE COMPLEX MATRIX CHAMBER, THE SUBJECT MOLDED A VESSEL TO CARRY HIS CONSCIOUSNESS TO THE COSMOS.
THOUGH SUPERMAN TRIED TO STOP HIM--
--IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE. THE SUBJECT HAD MUTATED INTO A NEW FORM OF LIFE--
--A LIVING, BREATHING MACHINE WITHOUT LIMIT--
--AND THE WONDERS OF THE UNIVERSE WERE HIS TO DISCOVER.
SHLRK?
YOU UNDERSTAND. THE LEADER MASQUERADES AS SUPERMAN.
USES MATRIX TECHNOLOGY TO CREATE KRYPTONIAN METAL.
GENETIC CODING FOR TISSUE.

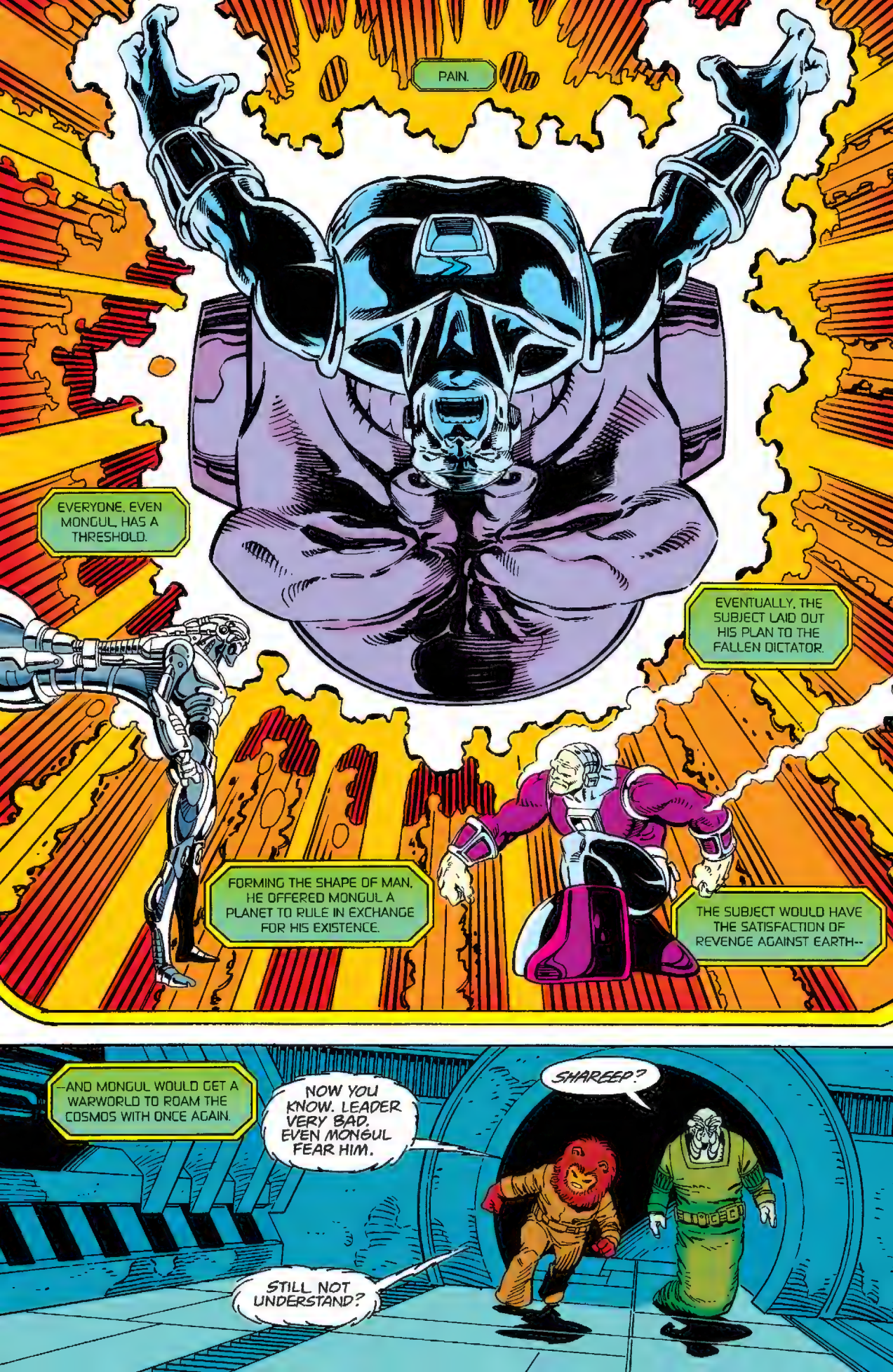

THE LEADER HATES SUPERMAN, BLAMES HIM FOR LOSING HUMANITY! BANISHING HIM FROM HOMEWORLD, TOO.
MECHANICAL HALF MAKES HIM STRONGER THAN SUPERMAN EVER WAS!
THE NEW LIFE FORM TRAVELED THE STARS, EXAMINING PLANETS AND ACCUMULATING KNOWLEDGE UNTIL IT ARRIVED AT PEROTON 5.
THIS WAS A SIMPLE PLANET OF LIMITED TECHNOLOGY, DOMINATED BY AGRICULTURE THAT HAD KNOWN A SIMPLE EXISTENCE UNTIL IT WAS CONQUERED--
--BY THE WARRIOR MONGUL.
MONGUL, ONCE FORCED BY SUPERMAN TO FLEE WAR WORLD, WAS NOW RULER.
HIS ARMY AND WEAPONS OF DESTRUCTION HAD LONG BEEN EXHAUSTED. DOMINATING A SIMPLE PLANET SUCH AS PEROTON 5 WAS THE BEST HE COULD HOPE FOR.
ALL THIS WOULD SOON CHANGE.

THE SUBJECT FIRST LANDED ON THIS PLANET WITH INTENTIONS OF SEEKING KNOWLEDGE.
USUALLY ACCOMPLISHING THIS BY MAKING CONTACT WITH ONE OF THE NATIVES--
--AND THEN BONDING WITH HIM / HER TO LEARN OF THE PLANET'S CULTURE AND HISTORY.
THIS TIME THE SUBJECT LEARNED A GREAT DEAL MORE.
HE BECAME AWARE OF MONGUL--
--AND GREW TO KNOW OF THE CONQUEROR'S DEEP, FIERY HATRED OF SUPERMAN.


HAVING ADOPTED HIS NEW FORM, THE SUBJECT ENTERED MONGUL'S CHAMBER TO MEET HIM.
MONGUL DISPLAYED HIS USUAL CONTEMPT FOR THE NEW AND DIFFERENT--
--BY ORDERING THE STRANGE BEING BEFORE HIM ELIMINATED.
THE SUBJECT AVOIDED THIS BY "JUMPING" INTO THE TECHNICAL SYSTEMS MONGUL'S ARMY HAD BUILT.
AS MONGUL WONDERED WHY THE LIGHTS AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS SHUT DOWN--
--THE SUBJECT WAS DELVING INTO THE DATA FILES-- LEARNING ALL THERE WAS TO KNOW ABOUT THE BELLIGERENT CREATURE.
HE GREW TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING.
NOT ONLY WAS HE FAR MORE POWERFUL AND INTELLIGENT THAN MONGUL--
--BUT HE NOW REALIZED EARTH, THE HOME SUPERMAN HAD FORCED HIM TO LEAVE, COULD BE HIS WITH MONGUL'S ASSISTANCE.


TO ENUST MONGUL'S AID THE SUBJECT NEEDED TO DEMONSTRATE HIS SUPERIORITY.
MONGUL'S SMALL CRUISER, A FAR CRY FROM THE WARWORLD HE ONCE RULED, WOULD SERVE WELL.
THE SUBJECT ENTERED THE SHIP'S CONTROLS AND EVENTUALLY REACHED INTO EVERY CORNER AND CIRCUIT WITHIN.
IN THE PROCESS HE REWROTE THE WEAPONS, FLIGHT AND DATA SYSTEMS INTO SOMETHING ONLY HE COULD UTILIZE.
THE SUBJECT WANTED TO RECREATE A WARWORLD OF HIS OWN--
--ONE FAR MORE REMARKABLE THAN THE ORIGINAL.
ALL HE NEEDED TO DO WAS SHOW MONGUL THE WAY--
--AND THEN SUBJUGATE HIM TO HIS WILL.
NO EASY TASK--

--UNLESS YOU'RE ABLE TO CONTROL MACHINERY AND TECHNOLOGY THE WAY THE SUBJECT CAN.
HE 'INHABITED' MONGUL'S CRUISER, BENDING IT, SHAPING IT AND MANIPULATING IT UNTIL IT BECAME A LIVING ENTITY.
THE SIGHT WAS STRANGE ENOUGH TO SHAKE EVEN MONGUL.
THE LIVING SHIP SPOKE TO MONGUL AS A GOD TO A FOLLOWER--
--AND WHEN MONGUL DISPLAYED HIS IGNORANT DEFIANCE THE SUBJECT KNEW EXACTLY WHAT MEASURES WOULD FORCE THE WARRIOR INTO LINE.
HE FORMULATED THE ONE LANGUAGE MONGUL RESPONDS TO...

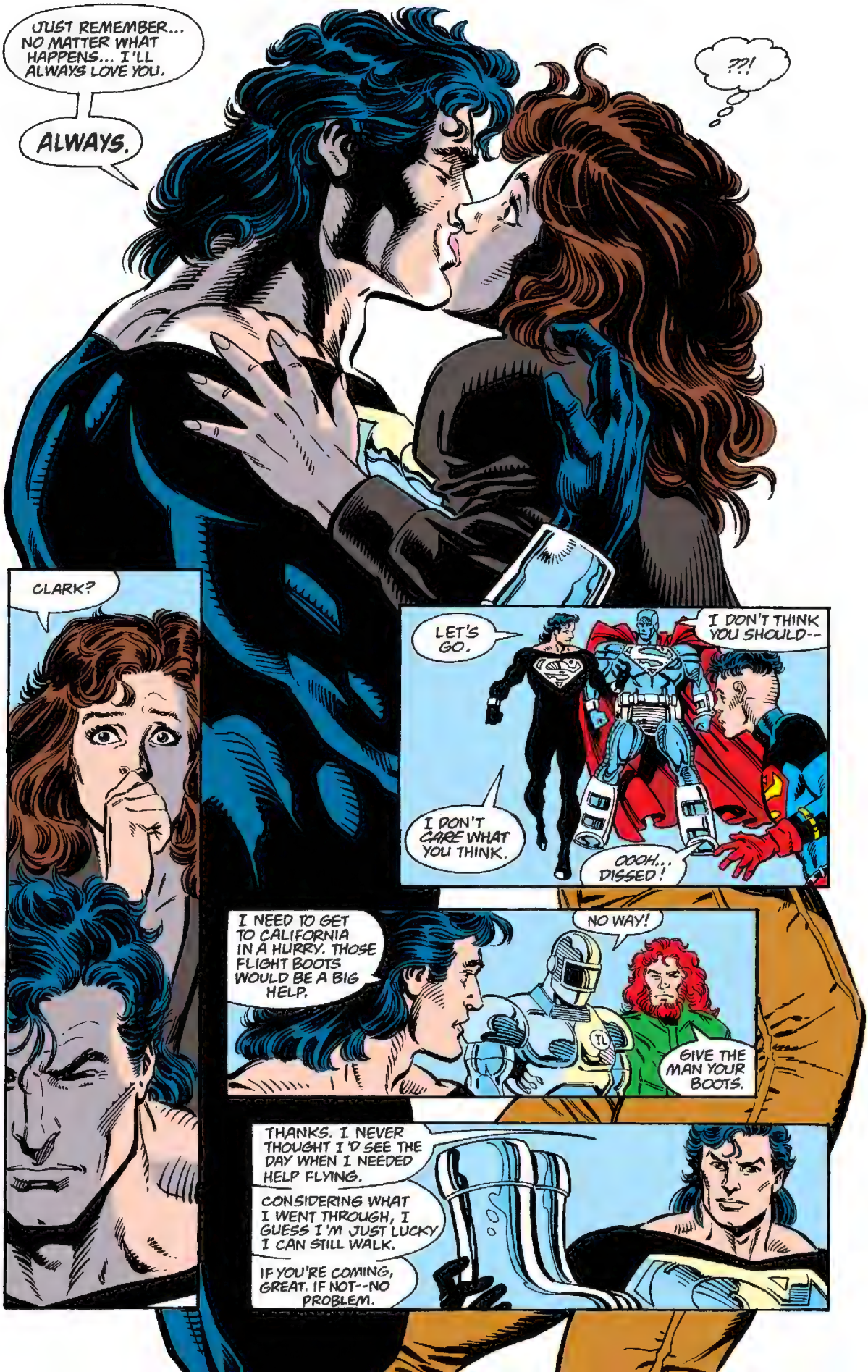

PAIN.
EVERYONE, EVEN MONGUL, HAS A THRESHOLD.
EVENTUALLY, THE SUBJECT LAID OUT HIS PLAN TO THE FALLEN DICTATOR.
FORMING THE SHAPE OF MAN, HE OFFERED MONGUL A PLANET TO RULE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS EXISTENCE.
THE SUBJECT WOULD HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF REVENGE AGAINST EARTH--
--AND MONGUL WOULD GET A WARWORLD TO ROAM THE COSMOS WITH ONCE AGAIN.
NOW YOU KNOW. LEADER VERY BAD. EVEN MONGUL FEAR HIM.
SHAREEP?
STILL NOT UNDERSTAND?

REALLY SIMPLE.
LEADER ONCE HUMAN. NAME HANK HENSHAW.
ASTRONAUT FRIENDS DEAD... MATE TOO... NOW TOO ADVANCED TO LIVE ON EARTH!
LEADER BLAMED SUPERMAN. HATED SUPERMAN!
HOW GET REVENGE? SUPERMAN DEAD TOO!
BUT HE HAD SUPERMAN'S GENETIC CODE!
TERRI HENSHAW
1955 - 1992
COULD ASSUME SUPERMAN'S IDENTITY--
--AND HAVE HIM BLAMED BY UNIVERSE FOR DESTROYING EARTH!

THE ANTARCTIC
THE HEALING PROCESS GOES WELL.
WE MUST HURRY. THERE ARE FIRST REPORTS OF SUPERMAN'S ARRIVAL IN METROPOLIS ON THE AIR-WAVES.
THE MASTER WILL NOT LIKE THIS.
HE WANTED TO BE HERE--
--WHEN KAL-EL AROSE.
SHE SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO GIVE HIM THE TIME OF DAY.
NO LIE! IF HE'S REALLY SUPES, WHERE ARE HIS POWERS?
UNDERSTAND THIS, MY PET. NO MATTER WHAT TRANSPIRES HERE I EXPECT YOU TO STAY IN METROPOLIS!
BUT, LEX! DON'T YOU THINK I SHOULD HELP THEM OUT?

GOOD. THERE'S NO ONE HERE. WE CAN TALK PRIVATELY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M EVEN LISTENING TO YOU! AFTER ALL THE OTHERS...
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHO TO BELIEVE!
DID THE OTHERS REMIND YOU OF THE TIME I GAVE YOU MA'S ENGAGEMENT RING?
NO, PLEASE DON'T...
DID THEY TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME I ADMITTED BEING CLARK? OR THE TIME WE FLEW TO THE MOUNTAINS TO TALK?
OR ABOUT THAT RAINY NIGHT IN JULY WHEN WE FIRST--
NO!
YOU--YOU DIED! I HELD YOU IN MY ARMS WHEN IT HAPPENED!
PEOPLE... EVEN SUPERMAN... CAN'T COME BACK FROM THE DEAD!
I'M SO CONFUSED... YOU KNOW CERTAIN THINGS...
BUT SO DID THE OTHERS! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO BE SURE?!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS ANY MORE THAN YOU DO.
ALL I KNOW IS THAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH A MASSIVE TRAUMA.
THE LAST THING I REMEMBER IS DOOMSDAY HITTING ME...
LOIS, IT'S ME...
...JUST LOOK AT ME!


JUST REMEMBER... NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS... I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.
ALWAYS.
??!
CLARK?
LET'S GO.
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD--
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK.
OOOH... DISSED!
I NEED TO GET TO CALIFORNIA IN A HURRY. THOSE FLIGHT BOOTS WOULD BE A BIG HELP.
NO WAY!
GIVE THE MAN YOUR BOOTS.
THANKS. I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY WHEN I NEEDED HELP FLYING.
CONSIDERING WHAT I WENT THROUGH, I GUESS I'M JUST LUCKY I CAN STILL WALK.
IF YOU'RE COMING, GREAT. IF NOT--NO PROBLEM.

SUPERMAN IS BACK--AND SOMEBODY'S GOING TO PAY FOR WHAT THEY'VE DONE!
THIS IS DOPE!
THIS SEEMS SO... WRONG! THIS MAN CAN'T BE SUPERMAN!

FOUR HOURS!

I USED TO FLY CROSS COUNTRY IN UNDER FOUR MINUTES!

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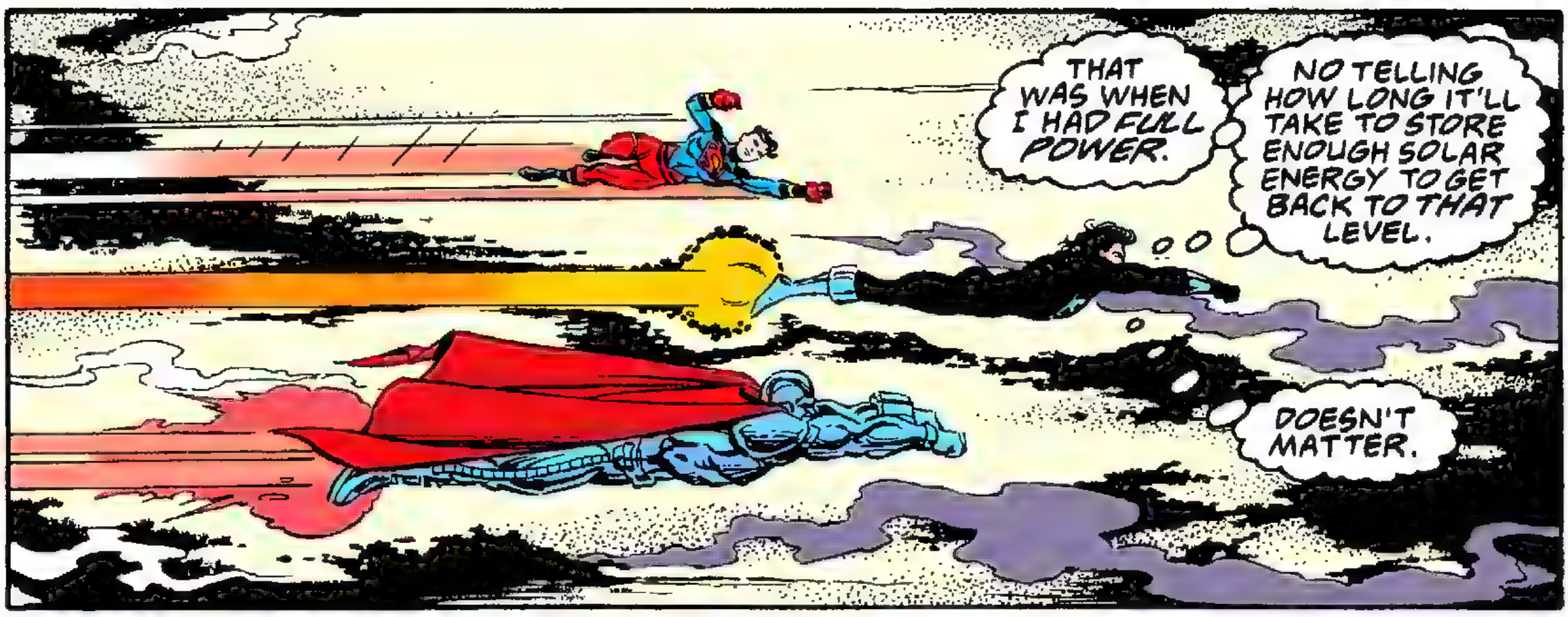
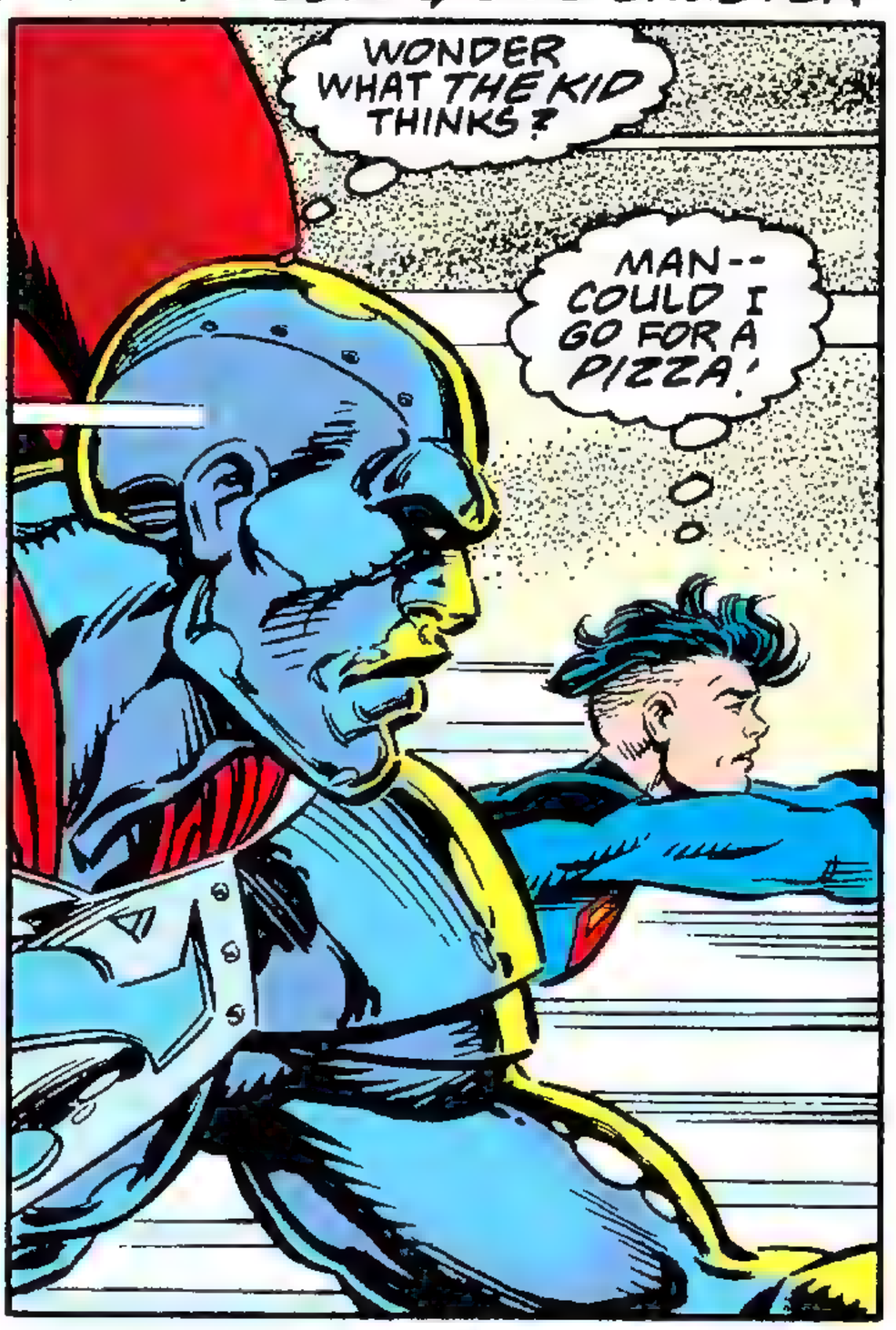

THAT WAS WHEN I HAD FULL POWER.
NO TELLING HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE TO STORE ENOUGH SOLAR ENERGY TO GET BACK TO THAT LEVEL.
DOESN'T MATTER.

ASSAULT ON ENGINE CITY!

KESEL WRITER · GRUMMETT PENCILLER · HAZLEWOOD INKER · DEGUZMAN LETTERER · WHITMORE COLORIST · PITTARESE ASSOC. EDITOR · CARLIN EDITOR

Special thanks to MARK HEIKE · SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

ONLY OTHER TIME I FELT SUCH A COMMANDING PRESENCE WAS WHEN I MET SUPERMAN-- THE REAL SUPERMAN.
MAYBE IT IS HIM. I WANT IT TO BE HIM.
BUT SUPERMAN DIED...



ALL I'VE SCARFED DOWN LATELY WERE SOME BELLY BUSTER BURGERS TANA HAD WITH HER...

"...BACK AT THE AIRPORT!"

...AN' THE CYBORG'S THE REAL BAD GUY AN' HE BLEW UP COAST CITY AN' HE BUILT A BIG ENGINE-THING THERE AN' METROPOLIS IS NEXT AN' WE'RE GONNA STOP HIM.

SCHLIP!

GOT ANY FRIES?

SORRY.

SO YOU THINK THIS NEW GUY'S THE REAL SUPERMAN?

I MEAN-- THE FIRST SUPERMAN? THE GUY YOU'RE CLONED FROM?

LOOK, TANA, WE'RE TALKIN' END OF THE WORLD STUFF HERE...

...HE WANTS TO WEAR THE SUIT AND FIGHT THE FIGHT-- FINE BY ME.

WE SCREW UP-- WON'T MATTER IF HE'S THE REAL THING OR NOT.

GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH...

ALMOST HOME, FELLAS!

COME IN LOW-- TRY TO STAY BELOW THEIR SENSORS.

IF WE'RE DEALING WITH WARWORLD TECHNOLOGY, THEY'LL HAVE A HEAVY ARTILLERY WELCOMING COMMITTEE.

SURE YOU'RE UP TO THIS, MAN?

IT'D TAKE A LOT LESS THAN A BURSTING SHELL TO PIERCE YOUR SKIN RIGHT NOW.

I'VE SEEN WARWORLD, JOHN. BEFORE I'D LET THAT HELL COME TO EARTH...

...I'D GLADLY DIE AGAIN!

CAN'T YOU GET A CLEARER IMAGE ON THE MONITOR?

THE HAZE, LEADER! IT INTERFERES...

SAVE YOUR EXCUSES, DOLT!

LUCKILY, I RECOGNIZE THE FORMS OF THE BOY AND THE MAN OF STEEL.

I WONDER WHO THEIR FRIEND IS?

NO MATTER I'VE ALREADY SENT THE MOST POWERFUL HEROES OFF-PLANET.*

TERMINATING THESE THREE WILL BE ALMOST... TOO EASY!

NOT IF THEIR "FRIEND" IS THE REAL SUPERMAN...

...BACK FROM THE DEAD TO HAUNT YOU!

HA! HA! HA--

*ACTION #690

KREK!

--AAAGHH!--

I SHOULD KILL YOU FOR THAT REMARK, MONGUL.

INSTEAD, LET THIS BE A REMINDER OF WHO HOLDS YOUR LEASH--

--DOG!

"ALL BATTERIES-- FIRE!

KOOM!

KOOM!

KOOM!

KA-CHOOM

"OBLITERATE THE INTRUDERS!"

SO MUCH FOR SURPRISE!

YEAH-- WE'RE SPOTTED LIKE DALMATIONS!

KA-KRANG

YOU ALL RIGHT?

YEAH--IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN ONE BLAST TO HURT THIS MAN OF STEEL...TWO AT LEAST!

I LIKE YOUR ATTITUDE, BUT WOULD YOU MIND IF I JUST CALLED YOU STEEL?

NOW, WE HAVE TO GET INSIDE THIS PLACE, AND THE ONLY ATTACK THEY WOULDN'T EXPECT...

...IS A FULL FRONTAL ASSAULT!

THAT'S TOTALLY PSYCHO, MAN! I LIKE IT!

'COURSE, I'D LIKE IT BETTER IF WE WERE TALKIN' ABOUT MICHELLE PFEIFFER!

JOKE ALL YOU WANT, SON--AS LONG AS YOU DELIVER WHEN IT COUNTS!

STEEL--TAKE POINT!

HIT 'EM HARD!

YOU GOT IT!

HONEY-- I'M HOME!

AND I BROUGHT OVER SOME OF THE GUYS FROM WORK!

KILL THE INTRUDERS!

KRAKOOM

WHOK!

TAKE THEM OUT FAST!

TAKE 'EM OUT! THEY'RE NOT EVEN MY TYPE!

OKAY-- MAYBE IF I REARRANGE THEIR FACES!

IT IS SIMPLE TO CALCULATE WHO COMMANDS THE ATTACKING FORCE.

MY WEAPON IS CHARGING.

"THEIR LEADER WILL BE TERMINATED IN 1.71.

"1.14

"0.57

"0.00"

BRAK!

AAAAA!

SUPERMAN!

THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE. MY AIM IS INFALLIBLE.

YET AT THE LAST INSTANT MY GUN-ARM JERKED DOWN--

SO?

I'D SAY JERK'S A PRETTY GOOD WORD FOR YOU!

HEY--LET'S PLAY A NEW GAME THAT'S THRILLING MILLIONS.

"ROBOTIC GIZMOS--NEEDED OR NOT?"

WE'LL START WITH--OH--THIS THING I JUST YANKED FROM YOUR CHEST.'

AW, TOO BAD!

YOU JUST LOST YOUR MECHANICAL SEMBLANCE OF LIFE... AND A CHANCE AT A NEW CAR!

NEXT CONTESTANT?

THEY ALL GOT BEATEN OR RAN AWAY, KID.

HOW YOU DOING... SUPERMAN?

FINE, STEEL--BUT THESE FLIGHT BOOTS ARE TRASHED.

THINGS AREN'T GOING TO GET ANY EASIER.

I'LL NEED SOMETHING ELSE TO GIVE ME AN EDGE.

WHAT'RE YOU UP TO, MAN?

I KNOW THE ODDS WE'RE UP AGAINST. I MAY DIE HERE, BUT I'M NOT COMMITTING SUICIDE!

SOME PEOPLE SAY I'M THE WORLD'S BIGGEST BOY SCOUT. WELL, YOU KNOW THE SCOUT'S MOTTO--

--ALWAYS BE PREPARED.!

SLAMMIN'!

TIME TO EARN SOME MERIT BADGES!

WHICH WAY, FEARLESS LEADER?

UP TOWARD THE COMMAND CENTER-- WITH *QUITE* A NICE VIEW OF THE OCEAN, I HEAR...

...OR DOWN INTO THE OIL-SOAKED GUTS OF ENGINE CITY?

DOWN.

FIRST WE MAKE SURE THIS PLACE IS *INOPERABLE*...

...THEN WE TAKE OUT MONGUL AND THAT TWISTED *FAKE*.

--REAL SUPERMAN? COULD IT BE, THIS TIME, THE GOOD GUY IS WEARING BLACK? THIS IS JACK RYD--

KLK!

--OTHER FALSE PROPHET! THE CYBORG IS THE TRUE MAN OF TOMORROW WHO WILL LEAD US INTO THE FUT--

KLK!

--FACT IS, MY CLIENT--THAT'S THE KID--HE'S GOT A TRADEMARK ON THE SUPERMAN NAME, SO--

KLIK!

WISH CLARK WAS HERE TO END THIS MADNESS!

NO--THAT'S NOT QUITE TRUE, LOIS LANE, AND YOU KNOW IT.

YOU WANT TO BE BY HIS SIDE...

"...NO MATTER WHERE... NO MATTER HOW DANGEROUS!"

THEY'RE CLOSING IN! I CAN'T HOLD THEM BACK BY MYSELF!

I NEED TO RELOAD!

HOW'S THAT DOOR COMING, KID?

GOT IT!

THIS WAY!

I'LL CRIMP THESE CLOSED.. MAKE DAMN SURE NO ONE FOLLOWS!

GOOD! USE THIS BREATHER TO--

FWOOK!

UH... GUYS?

GUYS, WE GOT TROUBLE...

...BIG TROUBLE!

SSSS

I... I THINK IT'S THAT ENGINE-BOMB THING! Y'KNOW— WHAT THE CYBER-RAT'S GONNA SHOOT AT METROPOLIS?

BOOM! GOOD-BYE BIG APRICOT... HELLO ENGINE CITY PART DEUX!

THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

KA-KLATCH!

THEY'VE FOUND THE MISSILE LEADER!

EXCELLENT.

OH, GREAT! OUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD ALIEN HORDE!

HOW MANY HUNDRED THIS TIME?

TOO MANY TO FIGHT ON THIS CATWALK!

WAP!

MOVE! I'LL SHIELD US!

THAM!

DOOM!

AHEAD AND DOWN-- FIND ANOTHER ACCESS HATCH!

SOMEONE ELSE ALREADY FOUND ONE!

LAUNCH IT.

BBBRRRRRRRRRRRR

WE'RE TOAST!

ONE CHANCE!

THIS DOOR'S GOT TO OPEN INTO A UTILITY ROOM OR SOMETHING--

"--FOLLOW ME!"

RRRUUMM!!

"MADE IT... JUST MADE IT...

"EVERYONE OKAY?"

KAFE KAFF

I'M... FINE, STEEL, BUT...

...THE BOY...

I THOUGHT HE WAS RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

HE'S NOT INVULNERABLE TO FIRE! IF HE'S OUT THERE...

...HE--

BOOM

GOD!

SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER... SHOULD'VE BEEN WATCHING...

STEEL--WAIT!

WE'RE IN SOME SORT OF TRACKING ROOM...

LOOK! THAT SPECK ON THE MISSILE...

"...IT'S THE KID!"

...UP... TO ME...

...KEEP... MOVING... FORWARD...

...GOTTA... STOP... THIS THING...

...GOTTA... USE MY WEIRD... DIS-ASSEMBLING... POWER...

...DON'T KNOW... HOW IT... WORKS REALLY...

...BUT... TOO MUCH... AT STAKE...

...GOTTA... DO IT...

...GOTTA...

PHWP!

GOTCHA!

CROWD... GOES WILD...

...ONE... GLOBE DOWN...

...COUPLE... HUNDRED... TO GO...

...UP TO HIM TO STOP THAT MISSILE, NOW.

OUR JOB IS TO MAKE SURE THIS PLACE NEVER LAUNCHES ANOTHER ONE!

GOOD LORD!

LIFE DOESN'T MEAN A THING TO THIS MADMAN! AND HE CALLS HIMSELF SUPERMAN!

WHEN SOMEONE TAKES YOUR LIFE'S WORK AND TWISTS IT LIKE THIS...

I KNOW.

THIS SILO'S DEEP.

LOOKS LIKE IT GOES STRAIGHT TO HELL.

THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING, STEEL.

AND SINCE I'M NOT INVULNERABLE AND CAN'T FLY...

...YOU BETTER CATCH ME BEFORE I GET THERE!

OKAY, DON'T PANIC.

THERE'S STILL SECONDS BEFORE I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF MILLIONS!

TOOK APART SOME OF THOSE GLOBE-THINGS... RIPPED OUT ALL THE IMPORTANT-LOOKING WIRES...

...BUT I'M NO ROCKET SCIENTIST. IF I PULLED THE PLUG ON MR. MISSILE HERE IT'S JUST DUMB LUCK!

AND EVEN IF I DID--AT THIS SPEED IT'LL RIP THROUGH METROPOLIS LIKE GODZILLA THROUGH TOKYO!

...TANA MOON, REPORTING LIVE!

THE UNIDENTIFIED MISSILE WHICH ERUPTED FROM THE COAST CITY DISASTER ZONE HAS EVADED ALL PATRIOT ANTIMISSILE FIRE--!

GOTTA... GOTTA CHANGE ITS COURSE... LIFT IT OR SOMETHIN'...

NOW THIS IS A JOB FOR SUPERMAN!

TIME TO... EARN YOUR NAME... KID!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T FIND SUPERGIRL, HAPPERSEN?

MY CITY'S ABOUT TO BE DESTROYED!

WE... WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE! GET TO SAFETY!

LADY, NO PLACE IS SAFE...NO ONE IS SAFE...

"...METROPOLIS JUST RAN OUTTA MIRACLES!"

TURN, YOU... OVERGROWN... FIRECRACKER!

C'MON-- TURN!

PERRY! I CAME AS SOON AS I HEARD!

IS IT AS BAD AS THEY...

...SAY?

"NO, LOIS...

"...IT'S WORSE."

AAAGG!

WAIT! IT'S... IT'S THE YOUNG SUPERMAN! HE...

MY GOD! PUT THIS CHOPPER DOWN, GORDON-- ANYWHERE!

NOW!

GREAT SHADES OF ELVIS!

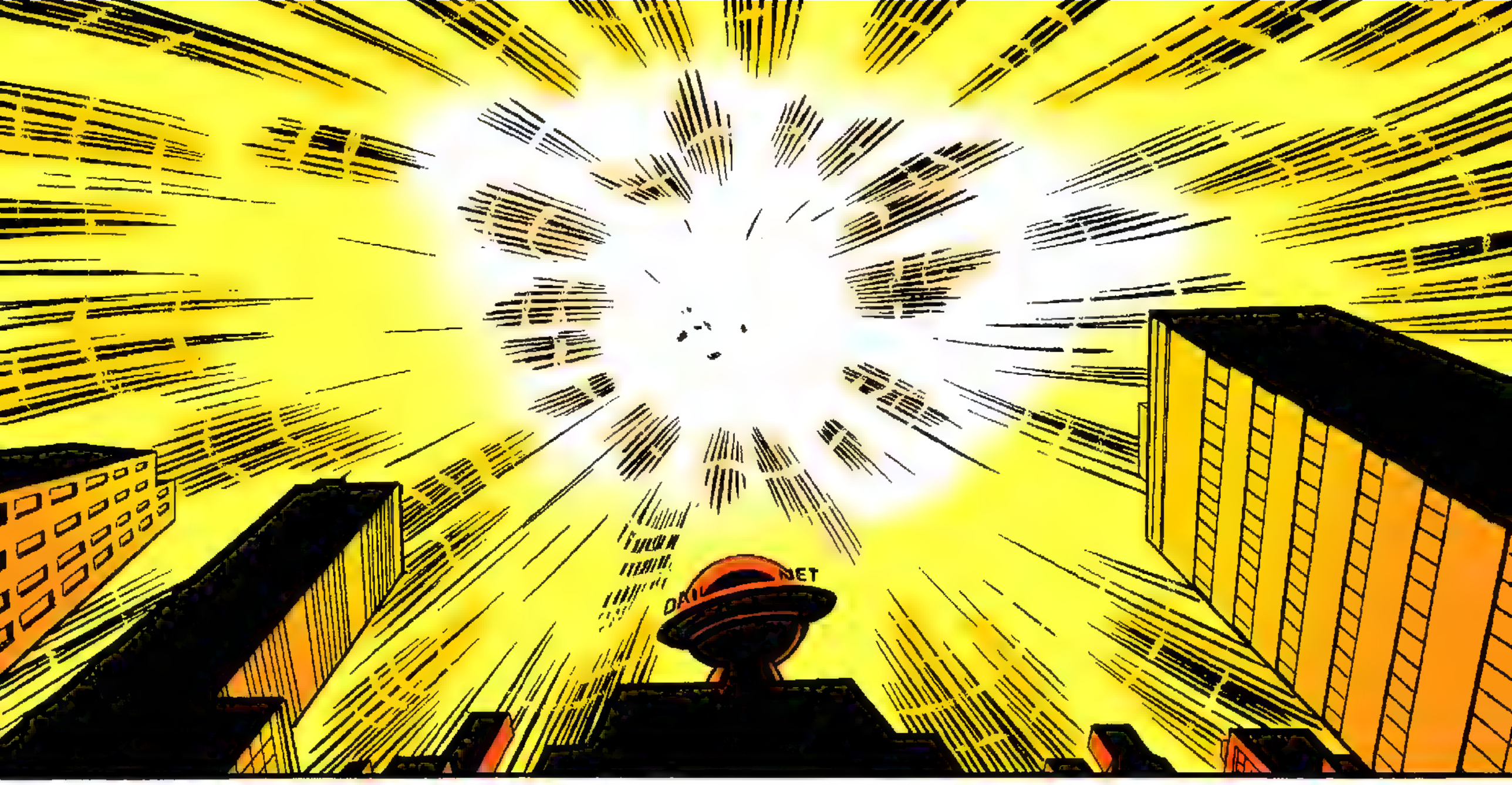
YES!

DAILY PLANET

HE DEFLECTED THE MISSILE! HE DEFLECTED THE MISSILE!

HE'S RIDING IT OUT OVER THE HARBOR AND TOWARD THE OPEN SEA!

HE SAVED THE CITY, EVERYONE! SUPERMAN SAVED METROPOLIS! HE--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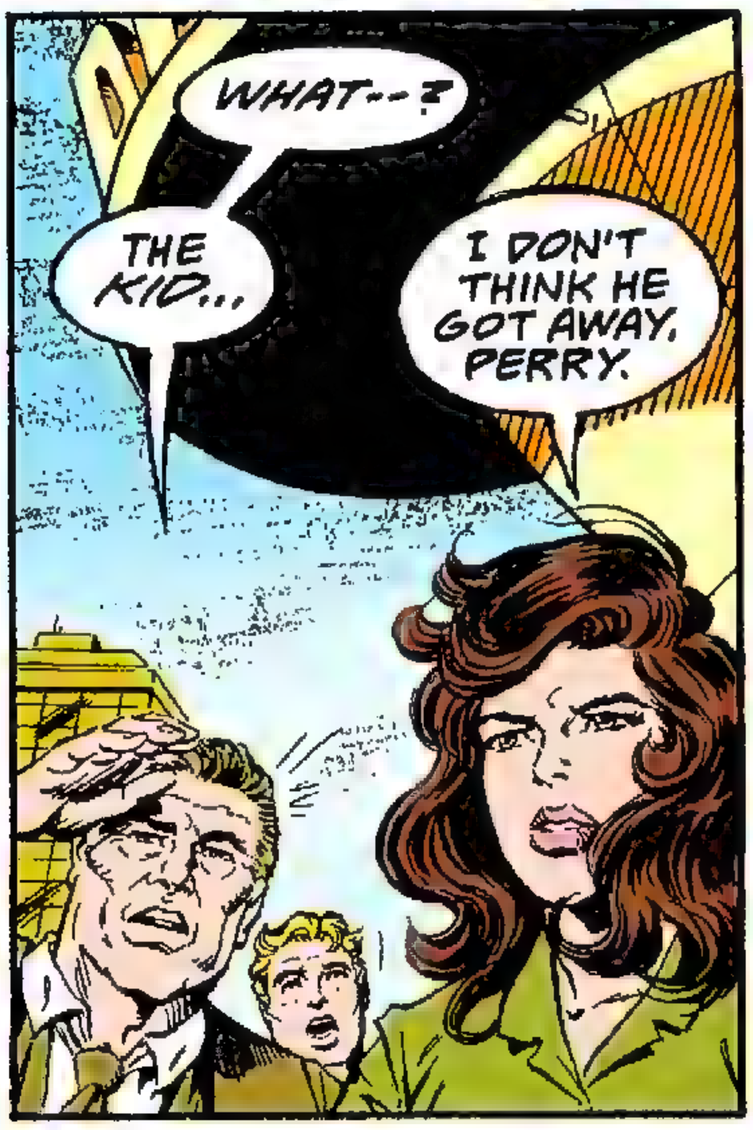
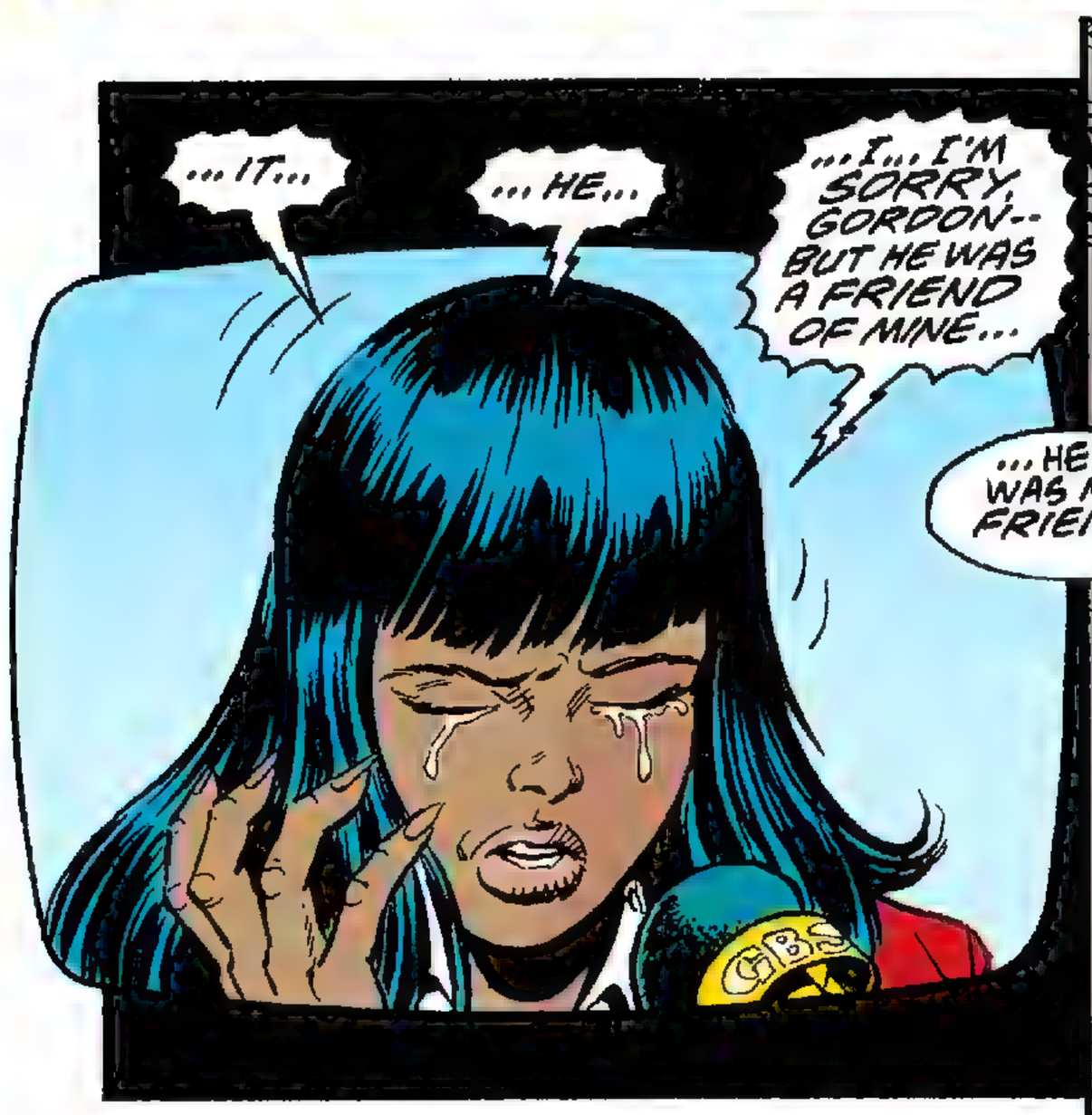

WHAT--?
THE KID...
I DON'T THINK HE GOT AWAY, PERRY.

OH MY GOD!
THAT...THAT WOULD'VE LEVELED THE CITY!
TANA! WE'RE ON THE AIR--RIGHT NOW!

UM...OKAY, I...
THERE'S BEEN A...A SUDDEN TURN OF EVENTS...
...I DON'T SEE SUPERMAN...AND THE BOMB...


...IT...
...HE...
...I...I'M SORRY, GORDON--BUT HE WAS A FRIEND OF MINE...
...HE WAS MY FRIEND...
CBS

YOU GETTING THIS BACK AT THE STATION?

"...THESE RATINGS WILL GO THROUGH THE ROOF!"

NOT THE END

SECRET WEAPON

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JACKSON & DENIS - ARTISTS
GUICE & RODIER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST
FRANK PITTARESE - ASSOCIATE EDITOR
MIKE CARLIN - SUPER EDITOR

OVER SEVEN MILLION PEOPLE LIVED IN COAST CITY, CALIFORNIA... RIGHT UP UNTIL THE MOMENT WHEN IT WAS LEVELED BY THE FORCES OF A MAD CYBORG WHO HAD MASQUERADED AS OUR WORLD'S GREATEST HERO.

NOW, IN PLACE OF THAT GREAT URBAN CENTER, STANDS THIS MONSTROUS CONSTRUCT CALLED ENGINE CITY.

IT IS THE LINCHPIN OF THE CYBORG'S PLANS OF GLOBAL DOMINATION AND REVENGE. HE BELIEVES HE HAS EITHER DUPED OR DESTROYED ALL WHO MIGHT HAVE OPPOSED HIM. HE IS WRONG.

TWO BRAVE MEN NOW DESCEND INTO THE DEPTHS OF ENGINE CITY, DETERMINED TO STOP THE CYBORG AND SAVE THE WORLD, EVEN IF AT THE RISK OF THEIR OWN LIVES.

THE MAN OF STEEL WAS A GREAT ENGINEER UNTIL HE LEARNED HOW HIS WORK HAD BEEN USED TO KILL INNOCENT PEOPLE. NOW, HE USES HIS ROCKET-PROPELLED ARMOR TO PROTECT LIVES.

THE MAN IN BLACK HAS LONG FOUGHT FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE. HE SURVIVED THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PLANET KRYPTON, AND DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THE MONSTER DOOMSDAY. OUR WORLD RIGHTLY KNOWS HIM AS...

SUPERMAN

Created by SIEGEL & SHUSTER

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COME ON, STEEL-- THERE'S A LONG, HARD ROAD AHEAD!

YOU'RE TOO MUCH, MAN!

THE BOTTOM OF THIS PIT'S AT LEAST A HALF-MILE DOWN!

THAT LYING CYBORG AND THE OTHER WEIRD DUDE WITH THE VISOR BOTH CLAIMED THEY WERE SUPERMAN, BUT NEITHER ONE HAS HALF THIS GUY'S HEART... OR GUTS.

IF HE ISN'T THE REAL MCCOY, HE'S CLOSE ENOUGH IN MY BOOK.

HE TOOK A HELLUVA RISK WITH THIS JUMP... HE'S NOWHERE NEAR AS STRONG AS MY ARMOR MAKES ME!

DON'T WORRY, MAN, I'LL CATCH... YOU?

THANKS, BUT THAT'S NOT NECESSARY.

STEEL'S A GOOD MAN... WITH ALLIES LIKE HIM, WE COULD FIGHT OUR WAY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH. AND I NEED GOOD ALLIES, WEAK AS I AM.

YOU LANDED SOFT AS A FEATHER. I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T FLY ANYMORE-- WHAT GIVES?

SHHH! NOT NOW.

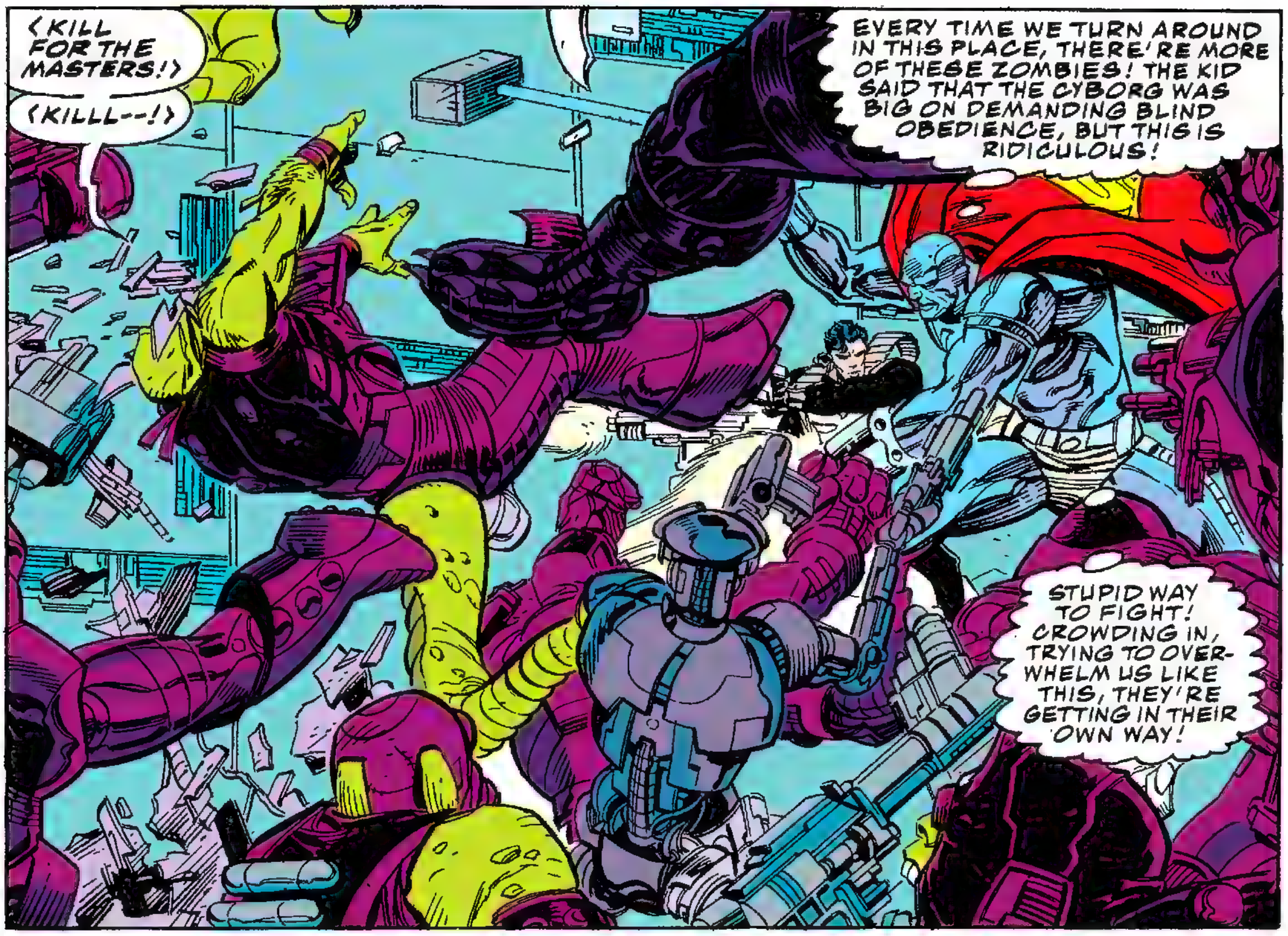
=?!?= HE'S SLOWING DOWN ?! BUT I THOUGHT--!

THE WALLS HAVE EARS... AND EYES!

I READ YOU...

... LOOKS LIKE THEY HAVE ARMS, TOO!

(DESTROY THE INTRUDERS!!)


(KILL FOR THE MASTERS!)
(KILLL--!)
EVERY TIME WE TURN AROUND IN THIS PLACE, THERE'RE MORE OF THESE ZOMBIES! THE KID SAID THAT THE CYBORG WAS BIG ON DEMANDING BLIND OBEDIENCE, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
STUPID WAY TO FIGHT! CROWDING IN, TRYING TO OVER-WHELM US LIKE THIS, THEY'RE GETTING IN THEIR OWN WAY!

EXCEPT FOR THE TIME MXYZPTLK CAN-CELED OUT MY POWERS,* I HAVEN'T BEEN SO PHYSICALLY VULNERABLE SINCE I WAS TWELVE!
I MUST BE DOWN TO ABOUT A TENTH OF MY OLD STRENGTH... BUT I FEEL SUCH A RUSH!
IS MY BODY SIMPLY PRODUCING MORE ADREN-ALINE TO COMPENSATE?
WHATEVER IT IS, I'LL TAKE IT! WE NEED EVERY ADVANTAGE WE CAN GET.
*CIRCA SUPERMAN #49.

ZZRAK!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
PA ALWAYS SAID, 'CLOSE' COUNTS ONLY IN HORSESHOES AND HAND GRENADES.
WE NEED TO FIGHT MORE OFFENSIVELY.

WOK

RIGHT!

YEARRGH!

(EH? WHAT IN THE FOUR HELLS HAS HIT HIM?!)

WEIRD. ONE OF THOSE TROOPERS WENT FLYING AS IF HE'D BEEN HIT BY A TRUCK... BUT THERE WAS NOTHING THERE! WHAT, DID HIS WEAPON BACKFIRE?

HEY, YOU DOING OKAY?

SO FAR! YOURSELF?

CHECK.

GOOD. THESE ARE JUST FOOT SOLDIERS. HIT 'EM HARD, BUT CHOOSE YOUR SHOTS WELL.

NO NEED TO ADD UNNECESSARILY TO THE BODY COUNT...

WE NEED TO SAVE OUR STRENGTH FOR THE MASTER-MINDS BEHIND THIS --THEY'RE THE REAL ENEMY!

"... MY X-RAY VISION IS A LITTLE WEAK AND FUZZY, BUT IT'S GOOD ENOUGH TO HELP ME DISTINGUISH ORGANIC LIFE FORMS--"

--FROM BATTLE ROBOTS!

SQWARK!

EVEN BETTER, TAKING OUT THE MACHINES IS MAKING THE OTHERS SCATTER!

TALK ABOUT CHOOSING YOUR SHOTS WELL! THE MAN DEFINITELY PRACTICES WHAT HE PREACHES!

HEY, MAN, I BELIEVE WE'VE GOT 'EM ON THE RUN...

<THEY FIGHT LIKE THE POSSESSED!>

<RETREAT!>

<BUT... MONGUL WILL FLAY US!>

<ONLY IF HE FINDS US-- RUN!>

THINK WE'VE FINALLY SEEN THE LAST OF THEM? NO, WHAT AM I SAYING? WE COULDN'T BE THAT LUCKY!

I HOPE THAT SUPERBOY'S BEEN LUCKY.

THE KID DOESN'T LIKE BEING CALLED SUPERBOY.

WELL, WHATEVER YOU CALL HIM, I PRAY THAT HE COMES THROUGH...

"...RIGHT NOW, HE MAY BE ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN METROPOLIS AND TOTAL DESTRUCTION!"

TURN, YOU OVERGROWN FIRECRACKER! C'MON... TURN!

LOOK, UP IN THE SKY!

...THE UNIDENTIFIED MISSILE WHICH ERUPTED FROM THE COAST CITY DISASTER ZONE HAS EVADED ALL PATRIOT ANTI-MISSILE FIRE--!

WGBS TELECAM

BUT, WAIT! IT'S... IT'S THE YOUNG SUPERMAN! HE'S...

...HE'S DEFLECTED THE MISSILE! HE'S DEFLECTED THE MISSILE!!

HE'S RIDING IT OUT OVER THE HARBOR TOWARD THE OPEN SEA!

HE'S **SAVED** THE CITY! EVERYONE! SUPERMAN **SAVED** METROPOLIS!! HE'S...

OMIGOD.

WOOO!

I LEGGO... OF THAT... JUST'N TIME... DI'N'T...

...IIIII?!

OW!

UHN!

WUNK

BROK

KLUNKS

FWUD

OOF!

O-O-O-O...

CLOSER! GET IN CLOSER!

BUT, MR. LUTHOR--!

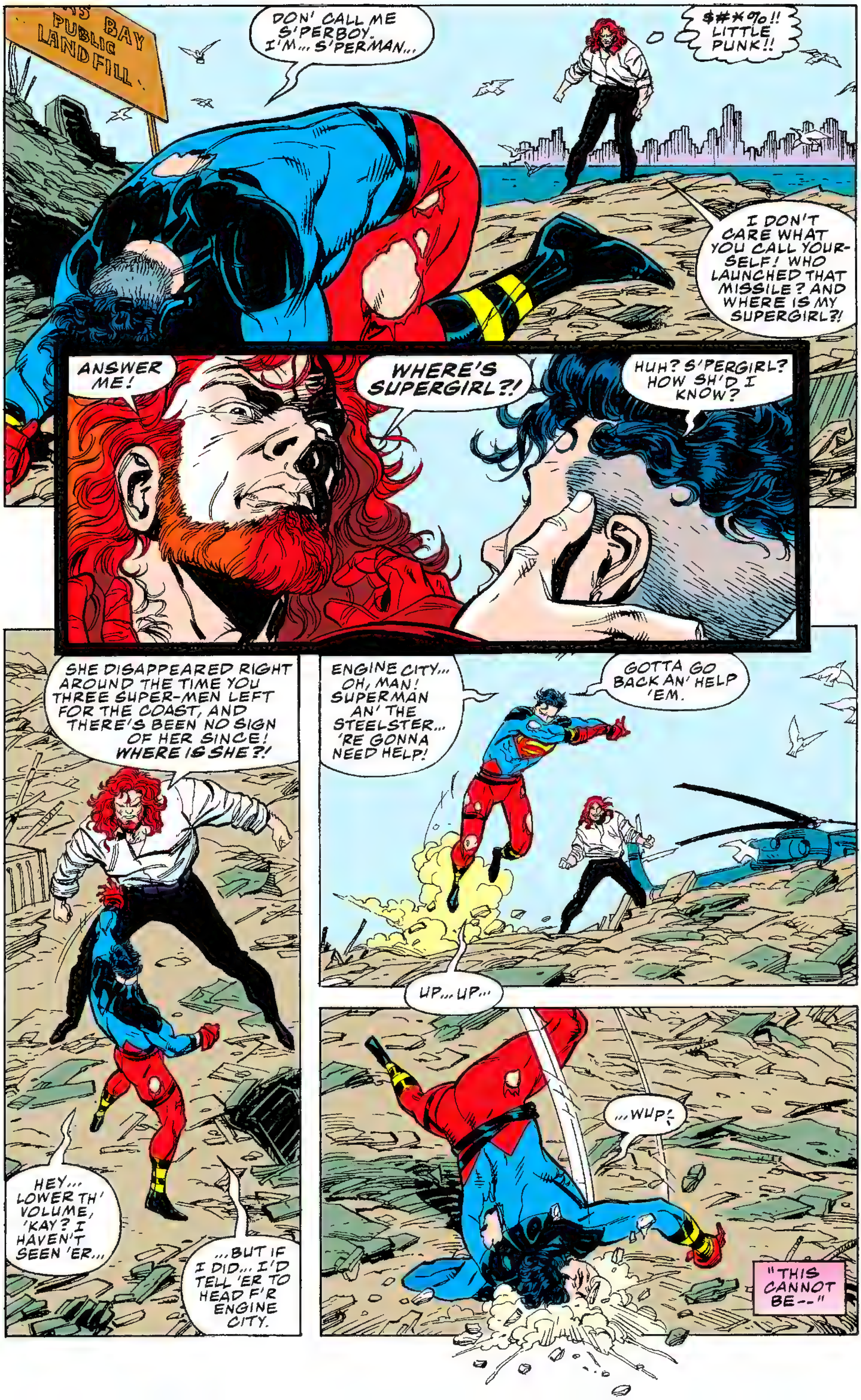
LEXAIR

I SEE MOVE-MENT, I TELL YOU!

...MAN, WHERE'M I?

AN' WHY'S IT SMELL SO BAD?

SUPERBOY!! WHAT IN BLAZES IS GOING ON?!


BAY PUBLIC LANDFILL
DON' CALL ME S'PERBOY. I'M... S'PERMAN...
$#*%!! LITTLE PUNK!!
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU CALL YOURSELF! WHO LAUNCHED THAT MISSILE? AND WHERE IS MY SUPERGIRL?!
ANSWER ME!
WHERE'S SUPERGIRL?!
HUH? S'PERGIRL? HOW SH'D I KNOW?
SHE DISAPPEARED RIGHT AROUND THE TIME YOU THREE SUPER-MEN LEFT FOR THE COAST, AND THERE'S BEEN NO SIGN OF HER SINCE! WHERE IS SHE?!
ENGINE CITY... OH, MAN! SUPERMAN AN' THE STEELSTER... 'RE GONNA NEED HELP!
GOTTA GO BACK AN' HELP 'EM.
UP... UP...
...WUP!
"THIS CANNOT BE--"
HEY... LOWER TH' VOLUME, 'KAY? I HAVEN'T SEEN 'ER...
...BUT IF I DID... I'D TELL 'ER TO HEAD F'R ENGINE CITY.

ENGINE CITY.

--NO FINER PLAN WAS EVER DEVISED! THAT TEENAGED CLONE WAS *HELPLESS!* SHACKLED FAST! HOW COULD HE EVEN HAVE ESCAPED AND BROUGHT BACK HELP--

--MUCH LESS CHANGED THE COURSE OF THE ENGINE BOMB?! HOW, MONGUL?! *HOW?!*

I AM AT A LOSS... LEADER. YOUR PLAN INDEED APPEARED FLAWLESS.

AND NOW THERE IS A *NEW* SUPER-MAN IMPOSTOR WITH WHICH TO CONTEND--A RIDICULOUS MAN IN BLACK, LIKE A FIGURE OUT OF THE CINEMA!

AND HE AND THAT ARMORED LOUT HAVE ROUTED OUR FORCES! *ROUTED THEM!!* IT DEFIES ALL *BELIEF!*

IT DOES, INDEED... JUST AS IT DEFIES BELIEF THAT I, WHO HAVE CONQUERED ENTIRE *STAR-SYSTEMS*, SHOULD BE ALLIED WITH ONE WHO IS PROVING *SO INEPT.*

THIS DERANGED CYBORG WAS THE MOST POWERFUL OF THE SUPERMAN PRE-TENDERS. I THOUGHT HIM THE BEST CONDUIT FOR MY OWN REVENGE OVER THE LATE KRYPTONIAN.

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN *SO WRONG?*

ONLY SECONDS MORE, AND THE BOMB WOULD HAVE DESTROYED METROPOLIS, SEEDING IT WITH THE MATERIALS FOR A SECOND ENGINE CITY!

IT SHOULD HAVE WORKED... IT WOULD HAVE, IF NOT FOR THAT ACCURSED CLONE!

THAT *WAS* UN-EXPECTED. WE BOTH UNDER-ESTIMATED THE BOY.

I'D PLANNED TO USE HIM AGAINST YOU, YOU ARRO-GANT FOOL... BUT HIS SUCCESS AGAINST THE BOMB THREATENS MY OWN PLANS AS WELL.

REPORTS OF A FIFTH *SUPERMAN* HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED--

--BY DAILY PLANET REPORTER LOIS LANE. MS. LANE, WHO YEARS AGO POPULARIZED THE NAME SUPERMAN, IS CONVINCED THAT THIS NEWEST ARRIVAL IS THE ORIGINAL HERO OF METROPOLIS--

NEWS 4 SPECIAL EDITION

NO.

--MIRACULOUSLY RECOVERED FROM WHAT APPEARED TO BE DEATH. ACCORDING TO LANE--

NO!! HE'S DEAD!! DEAD AND GONE!!

SUPERMAN CAN'T POSSIBLY BE ALIVE, CAN HE?

SUPERMAN ONCE THOUGHT YOU DEAD. YOU'VE SPOKEN TO ME SO... ELOQUENTLY OF HOW HE CALLOUSLY ABANDONED YOU TO THE VACUUM OF SPACE.

IF HE IS TRULY ALIVE, YOUR REVENGE CAN BE EVEN SWEETER THAN BEFORE.

Y-E-S. YOU ARE CORRECT, MONGUL.

WHEN I LEARNED OF SUPERMAN'S DEATH, I THOUGHT I HAD TO CONTENT MYSELF WITH CONQUERING THE EARTH IN HIS GUISE, OF EVENTUALLY DESTROYING HIS GOOD NAME.

BUT NOW, SUPERMAN WILL DISCOVER THAT THE SCIENTIST HE ABANDONED HAS SURVIVED... THAT THE INTELLECT OF HANK HENSHAW LIVES ON!

THE REAL SUPERMAN WAS FOOLISHLY HONORABLE... WHATEVER OCCURRED BETWEEN THEM, CANNOT POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN AS THE CYBORG CLAIMS.

HE'S LOST ALL REASON, LIVING IN A WORLD OF HIS OWN PATHETIC DELUSIONS.

I WILL SHOW HIM HOW I HAVE MASTERED THE ART OF CYBERNETIC TRANSMORPHING...

...BUT I SHALL TAKE MY FINAL REVENGE IN HIS OWN IMAGE. I WILL DESTROY HIM WITH MY OWN HANDS...

YES, WITH MY OWN HANDS...

"... JUST AS I KILLED THAT VISORED IMPOSTOR."

ANTARCTICA...

STATUS REPORT...

...THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE.

THE ERADICATOR CONTINUES TO IMPROVE, ALBEIT SLOWLY...

HEAL ME!

...AND HIS IMPATIENCE GROWS EXPONENTIALLY.

THE CYBORG PRETENDER ATTACKED ME WHILE I WORE THE SHIELD OF KRYPTON'S LAST SON! HE THOUGHT ME DESTROYED...

...I MUST AGAIN BE MADE WHOLE!

I MUST LIVE TO AVENGE BOTH MYSELF AND THE NAME OF SUPERMAN!

I MUST HAVE MORE POWER-- MORE DATA!-- IF I AM TO PERSEVERE! ATTEND ME!

MASTER, WE HAVE ALREADY BROUGHT YOU ON LINE WITH ALL FORTRESS POWER AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS.

AT LEAST HE'S NOT CONFUSING THE TWO ANYMORE. THAT IS A MARKED IMPROVEMENT.

ABSORPTION OF EITHER ENERGY OR DATA AT AN INCREASED RATE COULD RESULT IN IRREPARABLE HARM. IT IS ADVISED THAT YOU HEAL SLOWLY AND COMPLETELY.

THERE IS NO TIME.

BROADCASTS INDICATE THAT THE OTHER SUPER-MEN-- THE YOUNG CLONE, THE ARMORED ONE, EVEN KAL-EL HIMSELF-- HAVE ALLIED THEMSELVES AGAINST THE CYBORG.

BUT THEIR POWER IS INSUFFICIENT.

METROPOLIS HAS BEEN SAVED, BUT THE CLONE MAY HAVE PERISHED.

THE CYBORG MUST NOT TRIUMPH...

...THE ERADICATOR MUST PREVAIL!

I MUST HAVE MORE POWER!

NOW!!

MASTER, NO! ALL SYSTEMS ARE RESPONDING TO YOUR DEMANDS.

IF YOU PERSIST IN THIS ENERGY DRAIN, THE FORTRESS ITSELF MAY SUFFER!

THIS FORTRESS WAS MY CREATION!

IT IS MINE TO DO WITH AS I WILL!

ALL RESERVES ARE BEING CHANNELED ;skwark; INTO THE MASTER. WE CANNOT ;skwark; OVERRIDE;

KRAK-KRETA

DYSFUNCTION... DYS... FUNC... SHUN;

MORE POWER!! MORE!!!

KRAK-KRAK-KETA

THROUGHOUT THE MILLENNIA IT EXISTED AS AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, THE ERADICATOR KNEW ONLY LOGIC AND DATA.

EVEN WHEN IT FIRST ASSUMED HUMANOID FORM, AND SOUGHT TO REMAKE THE EARTH IN THE IMAGE OF KRYPTON, IT LOOKED UPON THE PLANET AS LITTLE MORE THAN RAW MATERIALS.

IT HAD NONE OF THE PASSION, NONE OF THE LOVE THAT SUPERMAN FELT FOR OUR WORLD. ALL EMOTIONS --WHETHER HUMAN OR KRYPTONIAN-- WERE ALIEN TO IT.

ALL THAT BEGAN TO CHANGE WHEN THE ERADICATOR WAS REBORN IN THE IMAGE OF SUPERMAN.

HIS MIND WAS OPENED TO NEW THOUGHTS AND NEWER, EVER MORE COMPLEX WAYS OF THINKING... AND OF FEELING.

YES!

HE LEARNED THE WAYS OF PASSION AND OF RAGE, OF POWER AND OF GLORY.

THE CYBORG SHALL FALL BY THE POWER OF KRYPTON!

VENGEANCE SHALL BE MINE!

AND MAY HEAVEN HELP US ALL.

ENGINE CITY. SUB-LEVEL SIX.

CHOOM

WHAT ARE YOU SHOOTING--?

HIDDEN SURVEILLANCE DEVICE. REMEMBER HOW I SAID THE WALLS HAVE EYES AND EARS?

THE MORE OF THEM WE POKE OUT, THE MORE FREELY WE CAN TALK.

WELL, I'M GLAD YOUR X-RAY EYES ARE STILL SHARP ENOUGH TO SPOT 'EM. THAT'S A LITTLE BEYOND MY EXPERTISE.

SOMETHING WRONG?

I'M NOT SURE. I FELT A SUDDEN... PRESENCE.

OH, LORD... OF COURSE. IT'S THE ERADICATOR!

THE WHAT?!

HE WAS ONE OF THE MANY "NEW SUPERMEN"... THE ONE WITH THE VISOR.

WE ONCE SHARED A SORT OF MENTAL LINK, AND APPARENTLY IT'S STILL PARTIALLY FUNCTIONING.

HE'S ON HIS WAY HERE.

IS THAT GOOD?

I'M NOT SURE. FOR THE MOMENT, THOUGH, I THINK WE HAVE A COMMON ENEMY.

TARGET SIGHTED. LOCKING ON...

SHRAKT

TAAGETING FAILURE! REPEAT, TAR-*gakk*-

LOOK OUT!!

NICE SAVE. A LITTLE CLOSE, BUT NICE.

WHAT IN THE--? THAT ROBOT TRIED TO BLAST US, BUT... WHAT BLASTED IT?!

MY SECRET WEAPON.

WHAT SECRET WEAPON?!

IT'S ALL RIGHT. THE COAST IS CLEAR -- YOU CAN SHOW YOURSELF. COME ON OUT AND TAKE A BOW.

WHO'RE YOU TALKING TO?

OH, MY LORD!

HELLO AGAIN, MR. STEEL--

--I REALIZE THESE AREN'T THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT I'M PLEASED TO FINALLY INTRODUCE MYSELF... FORMALLY, I MEAN.

I'D HEARD SUCH GOOD THINGS ABOUT YOU, AND THEY'VE ALL BEEN BORNE OUT. YOU'VE REALLY DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB.

SUPERGIRL!

I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO SAY. I... THANK YOU.

DO YOU MEAN THAT YOU'VE BEEN WITH US THE WHOLE TIME?!

UH-HUH. EVER SINCE METROPOLIS. YOU DON'T THINK THAT SUPERMAN COULD HAVE DONE ALL THAT FLYING AND FIGHTING BY *HIMSELF*, DO YOU?

I APOLOGIZE FOR KEEPING YOU IN THE DARK ABOUT THIS, STEEL, BUT THE FEWER OF US WHO KNEW SUPERGIRL WAS HERE, THE LESS CHANCE THERE WAS OF ACCIDENTALLY TIPPING OFF THE ENEMY.

SUPERGIRL, COULD YOU FILL HIM IN WHILE I RELOAD?

OF COURSE. YOU SEE, STEEL, WHEN SUPERMAN FIRST REAPPEARED BACK AT THE AIRFIELD,* I HAD A FEELING THAT HE MIGHT BE FOR REAL.

AFTER HE SPOKE WITH MS. LANE, I COULD TELL THAT SHE BELIEVED HIM, TOO. AND THAT WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME...

*IN MAN OF STEEL #25.

"...I MEAN, SHE FIRST MET HIM YEARS AGO. SHE NAMED HIM SUPERMAN, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE.

"SO I SNUCK UP ON HIM AND OFFERED MY HELP.

"IN MY INVISIBLE STATE, I'M VIRTUALLY UNDETECTABLE ...SUPERMAN IMMEDIATELY SAW HOW USEFUL THAT WOULD BE.

"I SUGGESTED THAT HE ASK TEAM-LUTHOR FOR JET BOOTS--

"--BUT I GAVE HIM ADDED LIFT, MOST OF THE WAY, TO SAVE HIS FUEL. JUST AS SUPERBOY GAVE YOU A BOOST, STEEL.

ALONG THE WAY, I BRIEFED SUPERMAN ON WHAT HAD BEEN GOING ON IN HIS ABSENCE.

AND SINCE WE GOT TO ENGINE CITY, I'VE BEEN SECRETLY MAKING SURVEILLANCE SWEEPS AND PROVIDING COVER.

AGAIN, STEEL, I'M SORRY THAT WE KEPT THIS FROM YOU--!

NO PROBLEM. YOU DIDN'T KNOW ME, AND IT WAS A SOUND TACTIC. NOW, MORE THAN EVER, I'M CONVINCED THAT YOU ARE THE MAN!

WE'LL NAIL THESE WORLD-BASHERS TOGETHER!

I HOPE SO. I WANT MY SECOND LEASE ON LIFE TO LAST A WHILE!

IT WILL!

DAMN STRAIGHT IT WILL!

I SWEAR TO DO RIGHT BY YOU, SUPER-MAN!

THE WORLD WAS A MIGHTY COLD PLACE WITHOUT YOU AROUND.

WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, THOUGH, I WOULDN'T MIND HEARING EXACTLY *HOW* YOU CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD!

I'D LIKE TO KNOW THAT, MYSELF.

MAYBE WE CAN FIND THE ANSWER TOGETHER.

BUT FOR NOW, OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO SHUT DOWN THE CY-BORG'S POWER SUPPLY. FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO SCOPE OUT, THESE CORRIDORS SHOULD TAKE US THERE. DO YOU AGREE, SUPER-GIRL?

YES, THAT'S HOW IT LOOKED TO ME ON MY LAST SCOUTING FLIGHT.

--I THINK--

--I CAN MANAGE.

GOOD. FLY ON AHEAD, THEN, AND MAKE ANOTHER SWEEP.

LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A DROP-OFF JUST UP AHEAD --ABOUT 25-30 FEET ACROSS. YOU WANT A LIFT, SUPERMAN?

NO THANKS, STEEL--

HEY, WHAT THE--?!

DEADFALL DOORS!

KHOOM!

WE'RE BOXED IN! HOW COULD I HAVE OVERLOOKED THIS?!

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, MAN! WITH ALL THE HEAVY METAL HERE, YOU'D HAVE BEEN HARD PRESSED TO PICK 'EM OUT EVEN AT FULL POWER!

THOOM!

UFFF!

WELL, *THIS* HAS BECOME A DEAD END. THIS THING MUST BE CLOSE TO *THIRTY* FEET THICK!

I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THINGS WERE GOING TOO EASILY FOR US. I HOPE THE BOYS ARE OKAY ON THE OTHER SIDE.

YOU'RE RIGHT, THERE'S NO TIME FOR RECRIM-INATIONS.

I SAY WE BREAK OUT. THROUGH THE SIDE WALL HERE?

LOOKS LIKE THE BEST BET TO ME. LET'S--

--DO IT!!

WHAT'S THIS-- ANOTHER UTILITY TUNNEL? DOESN'T LOOK MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THE LAST ONE.

NO. THAT'S PROBABLY A GOOD SIGN. I HOPE SUPERGIRL'S ALL RIGHT.

WELL, ARE YOU GAME TO FOLLOW THIS ON THROUGH?

RIGHT BY YOUR SIDE, MAN.

FOOLS...

...THEY THOUGHT THEY COULD ELUDE ME.

BUT NOTHING CAN LONG ELUDE ME IN ENGINE CITY!

...NOTHING!

WHEN I BECOME AS ONE WITH THE CITY'S LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS, THE TINIEST FLUCTUATION OF HEAT WITHIN THESE WALLS IS MINE TO KNOW!

NOTHING HAPPENS HERE OF WHICH I AM NOT AWARE!

SO YOU SAY. SO YOU TRULY BELIEVE...

... BUT THAT IS ONLY ANOTHER DELUSION THAT YOU NURTURE. THE TIME YOU SPENT WANDERING ALONE IN SPACE WAS NOT KIND TO YOU, "LEADER."

IT IS BEST THAT I *TERMINATE* THIS MOST UNEQUAL PARTNERSHIP, AND CLEARLY THE TIME TO STRIKE IS NOW--

--WHILE THE MAD ONE IS SO PREOCCUPIED WITH TRACKING HIS CHALLENGERS.

ADMITTEDLY, THEY ARE INTRIGUING...

SHOW ME HOLOSCAN 689.

YES, I COULD ALMOST BELIEVE THAT THIS MAN IN BLACK IS TRULY THE ACCURSED KRYPTONIAN RETURNED FROM THE GRAVE.

WEAKENED THOUGH HE MAY BE, THERE IS A LOOK OF DETERMINATION ABOUT HIM. HE REMINDS ME ALL TOO WELL OF THE SUPERMAN WHO DEALT ME MY ONLY DEFEAT.

BUT I SHALL ATTEND TO HIM LATER.

YOU, THERE! PREPARE MY FLAGSHIP FOR DEPARTURE-- AND MAINTAIN THE STRICTEST SECRECY.

AT ONCE, LORD MONGUL!

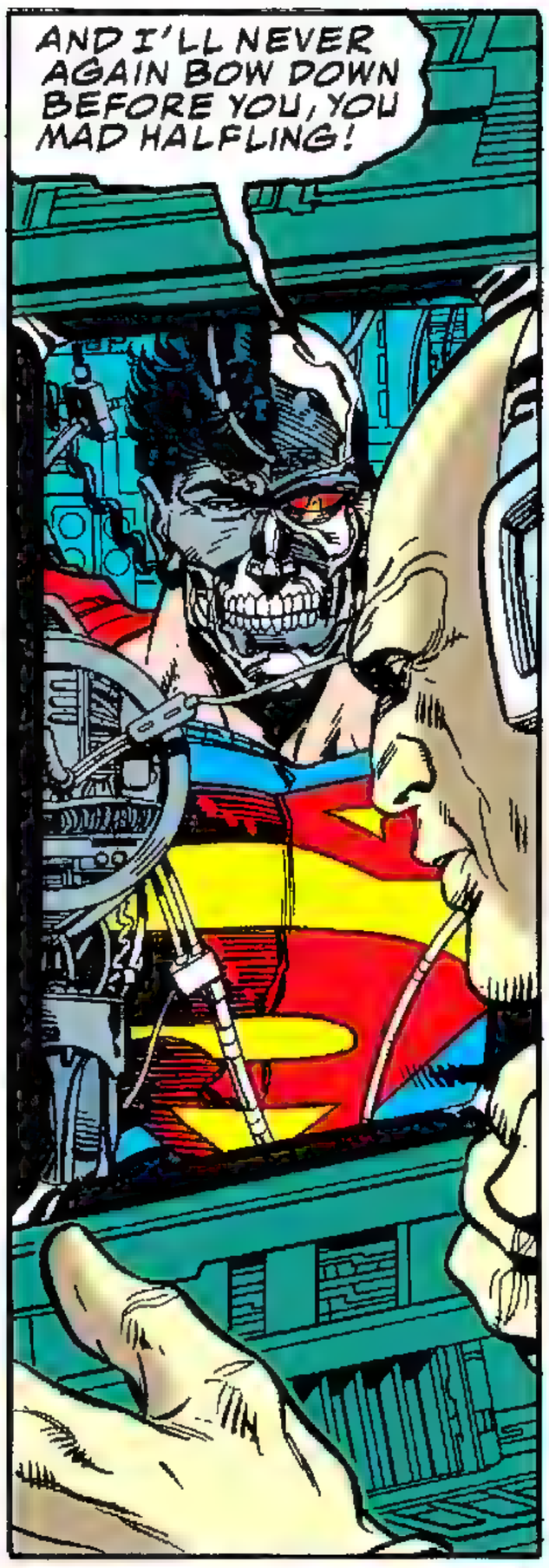
AND YOU! INITIATE ENGINE-CORE IGNITION PROCEDURES.

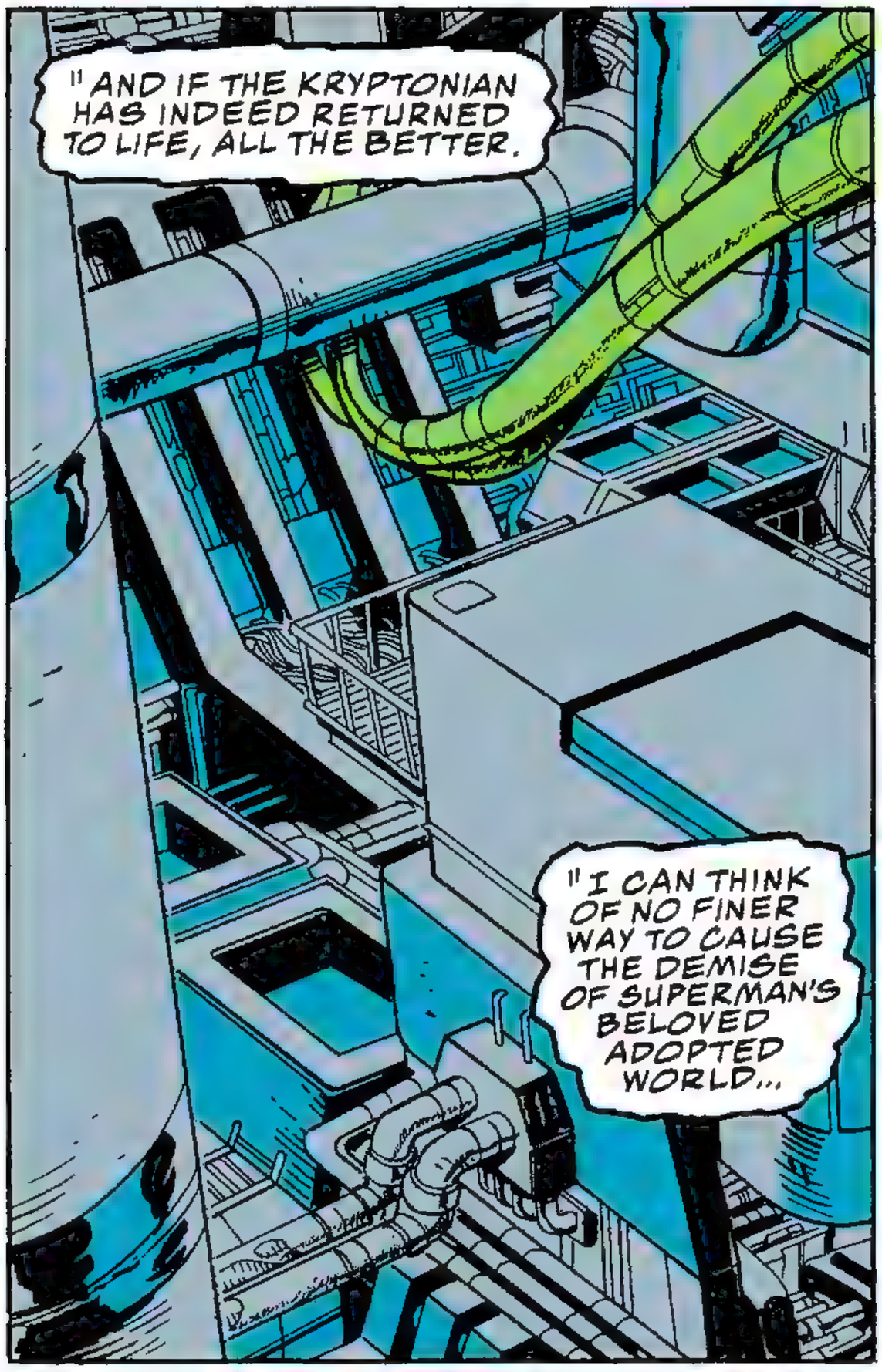
BUT, SIR... WITHOUT BALANCING ENGINES, THIS PLANET WILL SPIN OUT OF ORBIT!

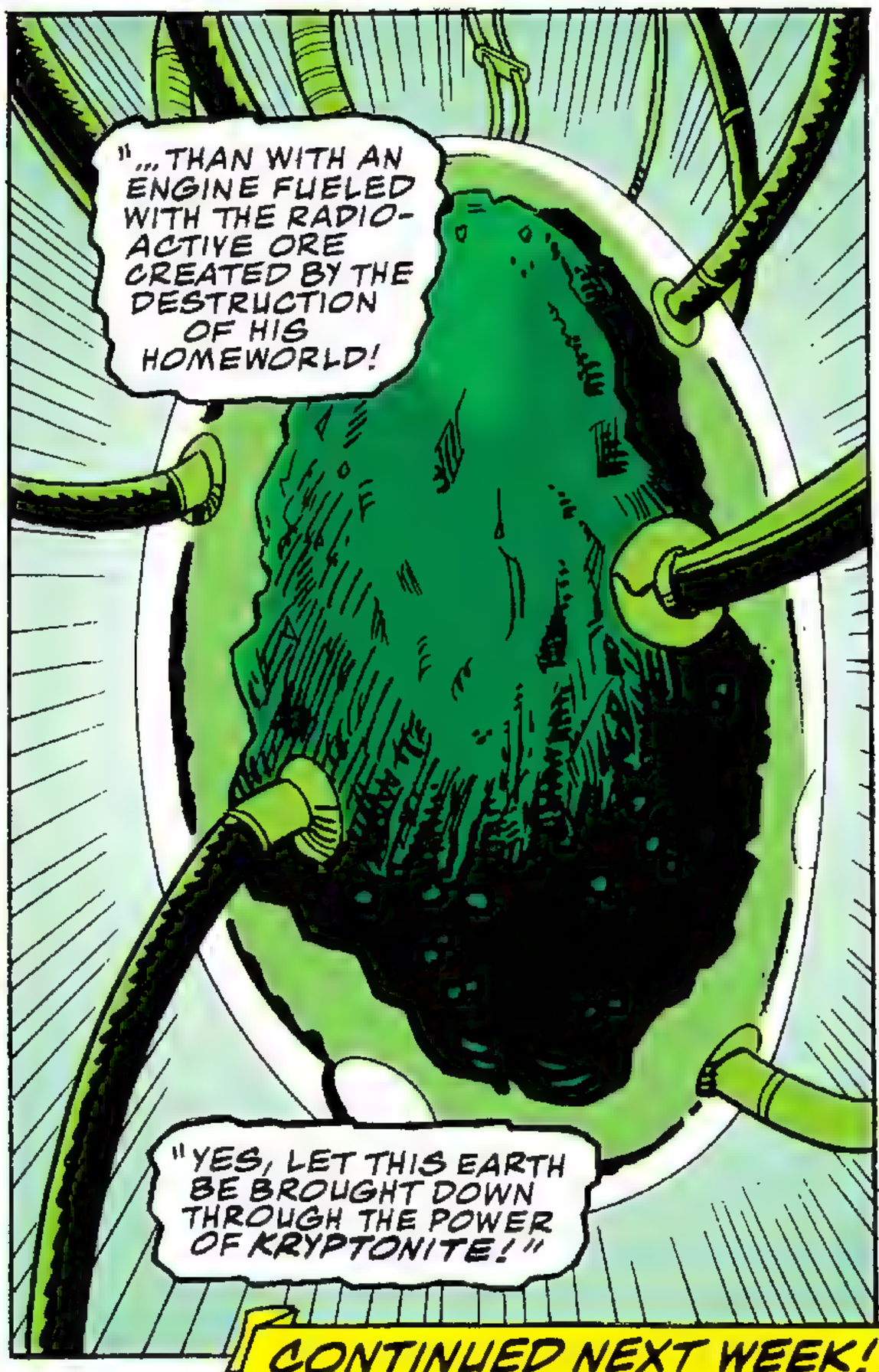
IT COULD RIP ITSELF APART!

I KNOW.

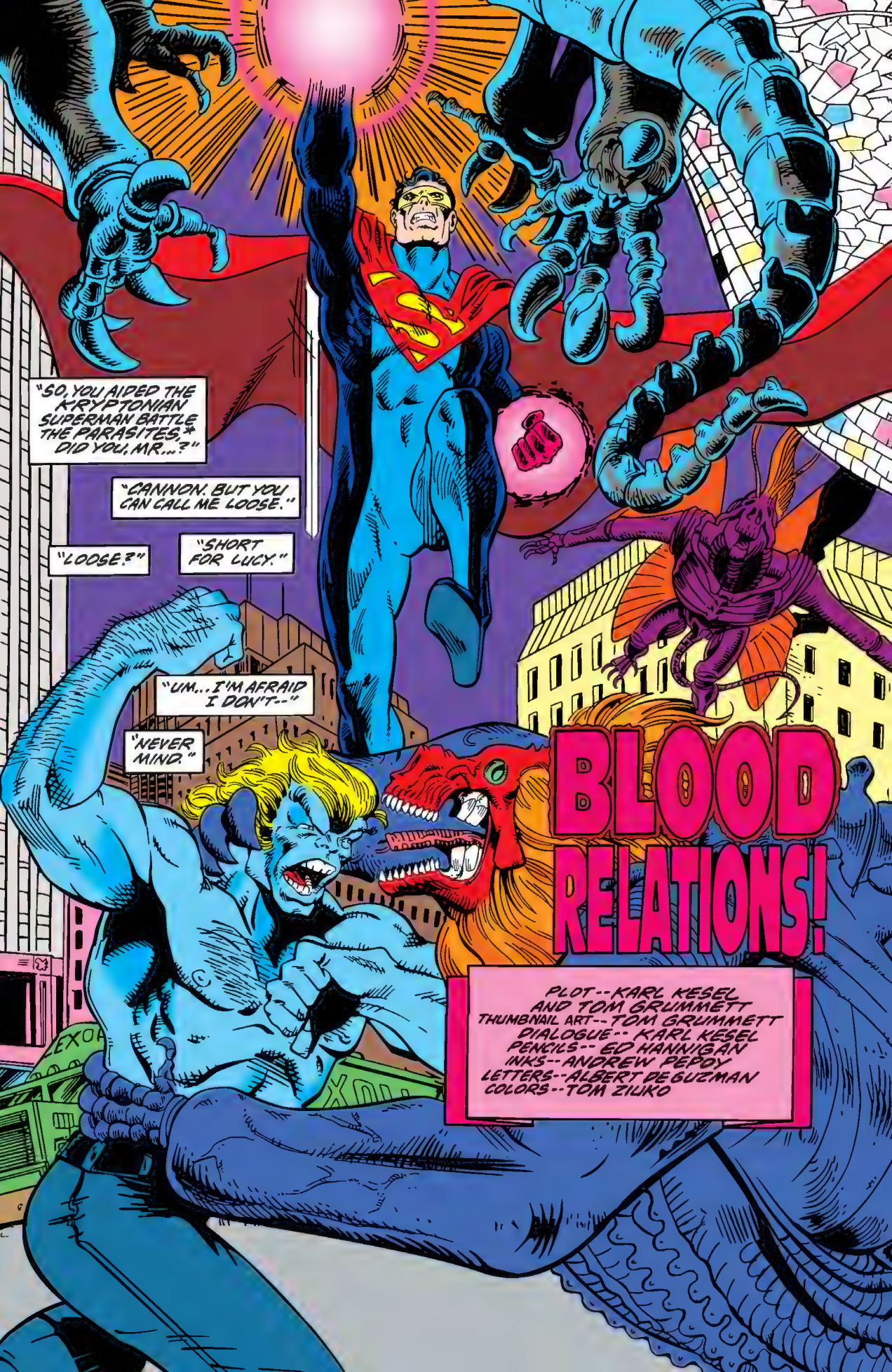
(THAT IS MY INTENTION, DOLT! ONE SIDE, I SHALL DO IT MYSELF!)
THESE INFERNAL SUPER-MEN HAVE THWARTED MY PLANS TO TRANSFORM THIS PLANET INTO MY NEW WAR-WORLD. I HAVE HAD *ENOUGH* OF THEM--AND ENOUGH OF THEIR WRETCHED LITTLE EARTH!
LET IT BE DESTROYED! I'LL FASHION A NEW WARWORLD ELSEWHERE!



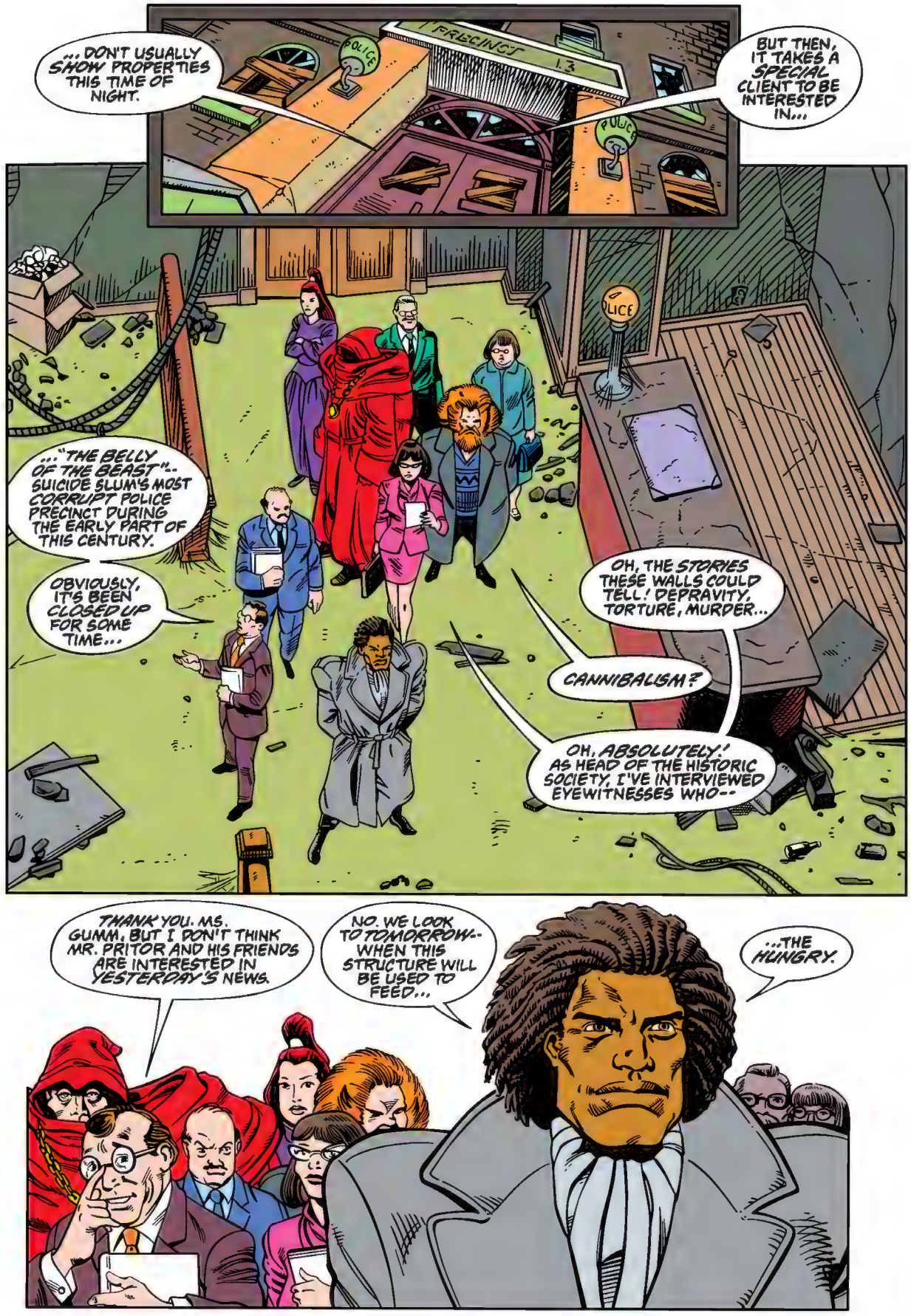

"AND IF THE KRYPTONIAN HAS INDEED RETURNED TO LIFE, ALL THE BETTER.
"I CAN THINK OF NO FINER WAY TO CAUSE THE DEMISE OF SUPERMAN'S BELOVED ADOPTED WORLD...


"...THAN WITH AN ENGINE FUELED WITH THE RADIO-ACTIVE ORE CREATED BY THE DESTRUCTION OF HIS HOMEWORLD!
"YES, LET THIS EARTH BE BROUGHT DOWN THROUGH THE POWER OF *KRYPTONITE!*"

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!


"SO, YOU AIDED THE KRYPTONIAN SUPERMAN BATTLE THE PARASITES,* DID YOU, MR...?"
"CANNON. BUT YOU CAN CALL ME LOOSE."
"LOOSE?"
"SHORT FOR LUCY."
"UM... I'M AFRAID I DON'T--"
"NEVER MIND."
BLOOD RELATIONS!
PLOT--KARL KESEL AND TOM GRUMMETT
THUMBNAIL ART--TOM GRUMMETT
DIALOGUE--KARL KESEL
PENCILS--ED HANNIGAN
INKS--ANDREW PEPOY
LETTERS--ALBERT DE GUZMAN
COLORS--TOM ZIUKO

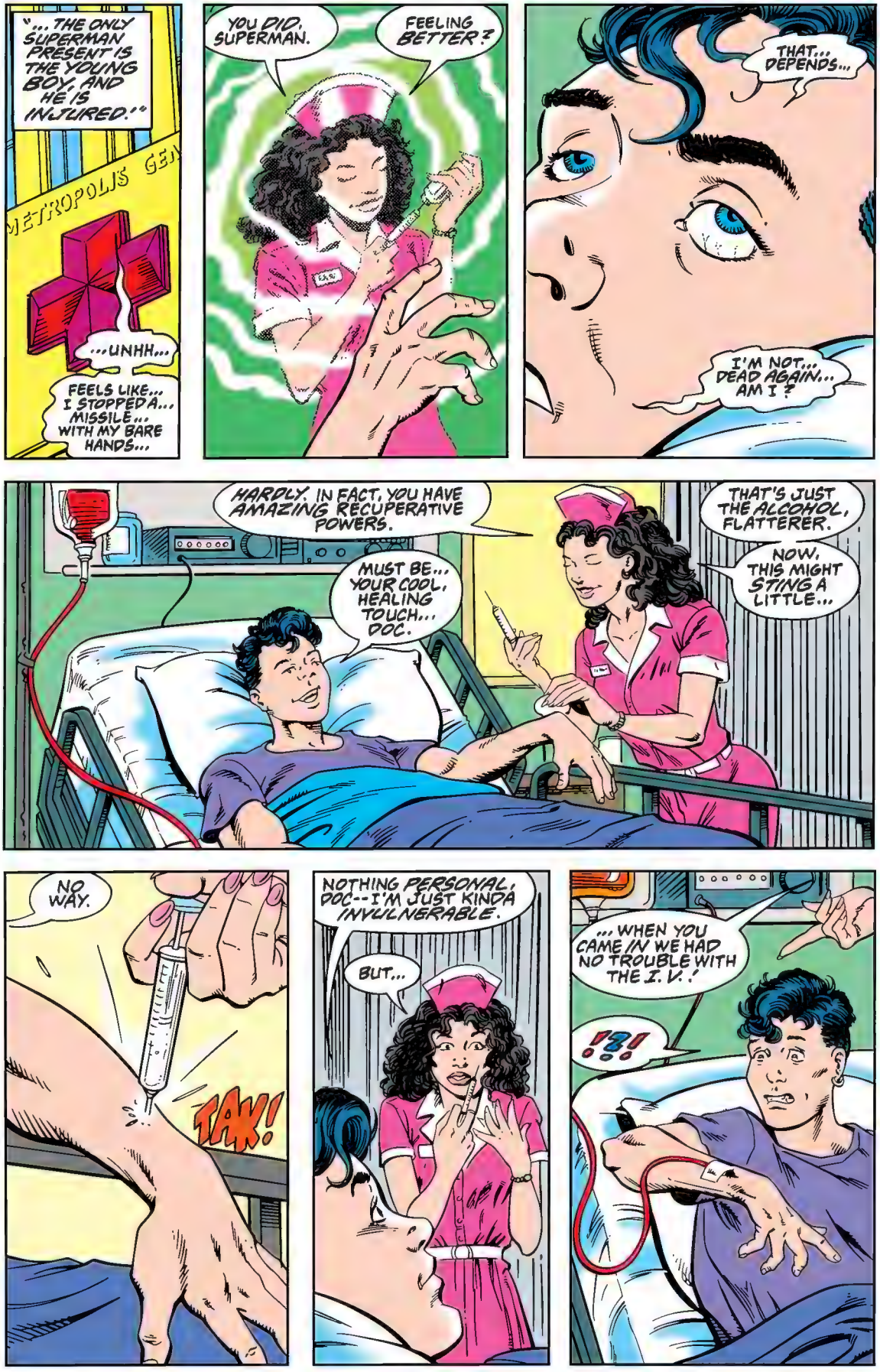
YES. WELL, THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING TO HELP S.T.A.R. LABS, MR. CANNON--ALTHOUGH THE HOUR IS QUITE UNUSUAL...
I'M KIND OF A NIGHT PERSON, DOC.
IF YOU SAY SO, MR. CANNON,
NOW, AS TO THESE PARASITES...
WE KNOW THEY USE THEIR GHASTLY "TONGUES" TO DRAIN ALL SPINAL FLUID FROM THEIR VICTIMS.
THEY'VE MURDERED HUNDREDS.
YET CORRESPONDING WITH THE APPEARANCE OF THESE CREATURES HAS BEEN A NEW WAVE OF META-HUMANS!
WE THINK PEOPLE WHO POSSESS THE ULTRA-RARE META-GENE AREN'T KILLED BY THEIR ATTACKS--THEY'RE TRANSFORMED.
WERE YOU ATTACKED, MR. CANNON?
YES.
IT'S BLURRY, BUT... YES.
AS I THOUGHT! OF COURSE, IT'S HARDLY CONCLUSIVE, BUT IT'S A STRONG START TO OUR HYPOTHESIS.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, UNTIL THE FINDINGS ARE QUITE A BIT MORE SUBSTANTIAL...
"... THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE KEPT TO OURSELVES."
UNCLE HARRY? IT'S ORRIE.
LISTEN TO THIS...

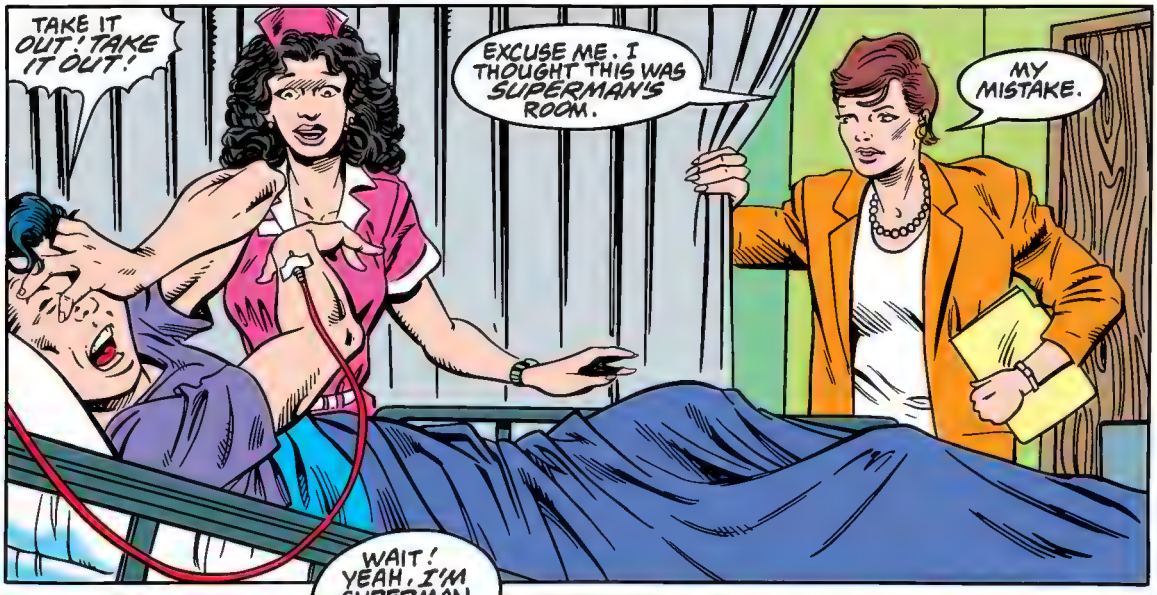

...DON'T USUALLY SHOW PROPERTIES THIS TIME OF NIGHT.
BUT THEN, IT TAKES A SPECIAL CLIENT TO BE INTERESTED IN...
PRECINCT 13
POLICE
...."THE BELLY OF THE BEAST".. SUICIDE SLUM'S MOST CORRUPT POLICE PRECINCT DURING THE EARLY PART OF THIS CENTURY.
OBVIOUSLY, IT'S BEEN CLOSED UP FOR SOME TIME...
OH, THE STORIES THESE WALLS COULD TELL! DEPRAVITY, TORTURE, MURDER...
CANNIBALISM?
OH, ABSOLUTELY! AS HEAD OF THE HISTORIC SOCIETY, I'VE INTERVIEWED EYEWITNESSES WHO--
THANK YOU, MS. GUMM, BUT I DON'T THINK MR. PRITOR AND HIS FRIENDS ARE INTERESTED IN YESTERDAY'S NEWS.
NO. WE LOOK TO TOMORROW-- WHEN THIS STRUCTURE WILL BE USED TO FEED...
...THE HUNGRY.

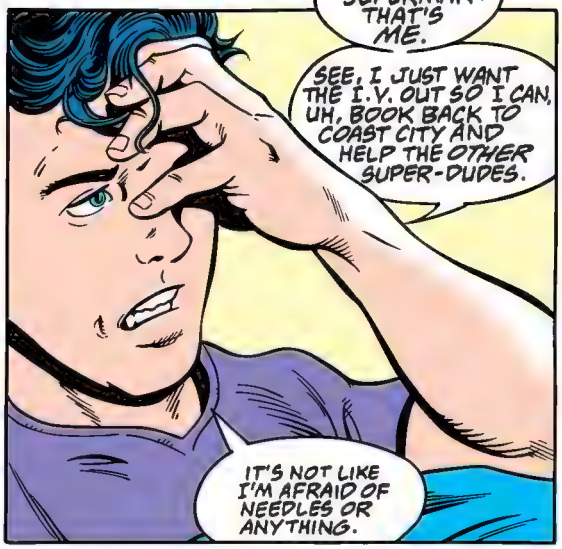
CHARITABLE WORK, EH? OR MAYBE RELIGIOUS? COULDN'T FIND A BETTER SPOT!
TRUE, THE PLACE NEEDS A LITTLE SPIT AND POLISH, BUT...
REST ASSURED...
...WE WILL RESTORE IT TO ALL ITS GLORY!
WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME, GLONTH! THE STREETS--
--ARE RIPE, ANGON! BUT WE NEED A PLACE TO HARVEST... IN PRIVATE!
WE'LL TAKE IT.
VERY GOOD! WE'LL GET THE PAPERWORK MOVING IN THE MORNING, BUT IF YOU COULD JUST SIGN A FEW THINGS NOW...
WE, AH, WE GOT THE IMPRESSION YOU'D BE PAYING CASH...?
NO.
I SAID...

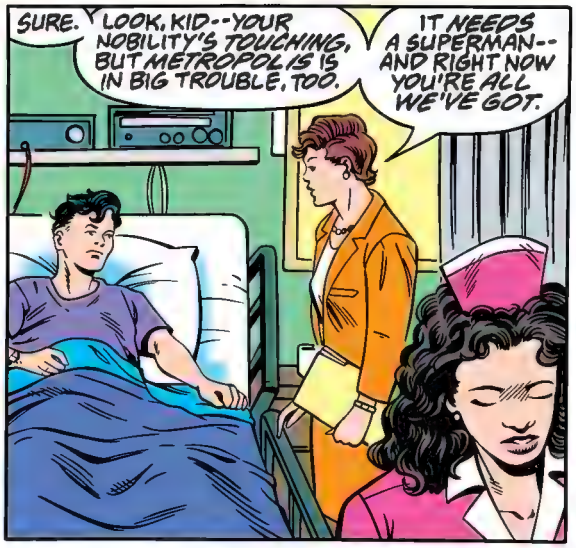
...WE'LL TAKE IT!

OOOOH!H...
CHNK
SCHLOMP
HRMMM! TASTY!
ONLY ONE FOR GEMIR? ONLY ONE!?
PRITOR'S EFFICIENCY... GLONTH'S APPETITE... YOUR CONSTANT DESIRE FOR MORE, GEMIR...
...YOU'VE ALL FORGOTTEN THE THRILL OF THE HUNT!
NO, ANGON--WE SIMPLY SERVE THE GREATER PURPOSE IN OUR OWN WAY!
AND NOW THE BELLY OF THE BEAST SHALL SUCK METROPOLIS DRY!
FOR I HAVE MONITORED THIS CITY'S NEWSCASTS...

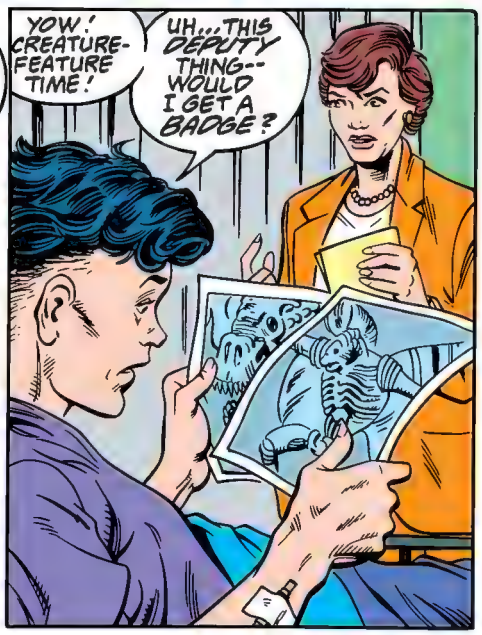

"... THE ONLY SUPERMAN PRESENT IS THE YOUNG BOY, AND HE IS INJURED!"
METROPOLIS GE
...UNHH...
FEELS LIKE... I STOPPED A... MISSILE... WITH MY BARE HANDS...
YOU DID, SUPERMAN.
FEELING BETTER?
THAT... DEPENDS...
I'M NOT... DEAD AGAIN... AM I?
HARDLY. IN FACT, YOU HAVE AMAZING RECUPERATIVE POWERS.
MUST BE... YOUR COOL, HEALING TOUCH... DOC.
THAT'S JUST THE ALCOHOL, FLATTERER.
NOW, THIS MIGHT STING A LITTLE...
NO WAY.
TAK!
NOTHING PERSONAL, DOC--I'M JUST KINDA INVULNERABLE.
BUT...
... WHEN YOU CAME IN WE HAD NO TROUBLE WITH THE I. V.!
!?!

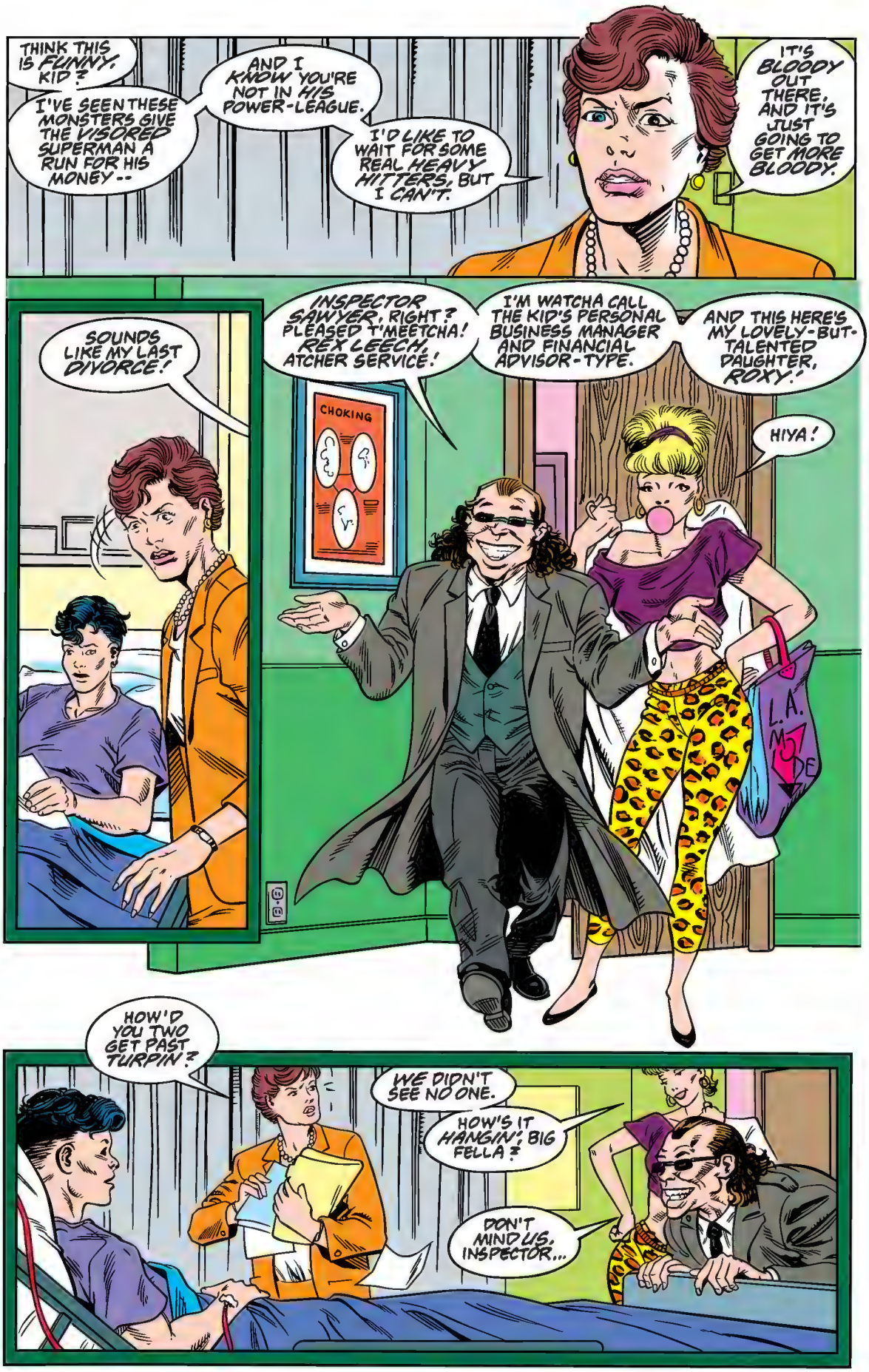

TAKE IT OUT! TAKE IT OUT!
EXCUSE ME. I THOUGHT THIS WAS SUPERMAN'S ROOM.
MY MISTAKE.

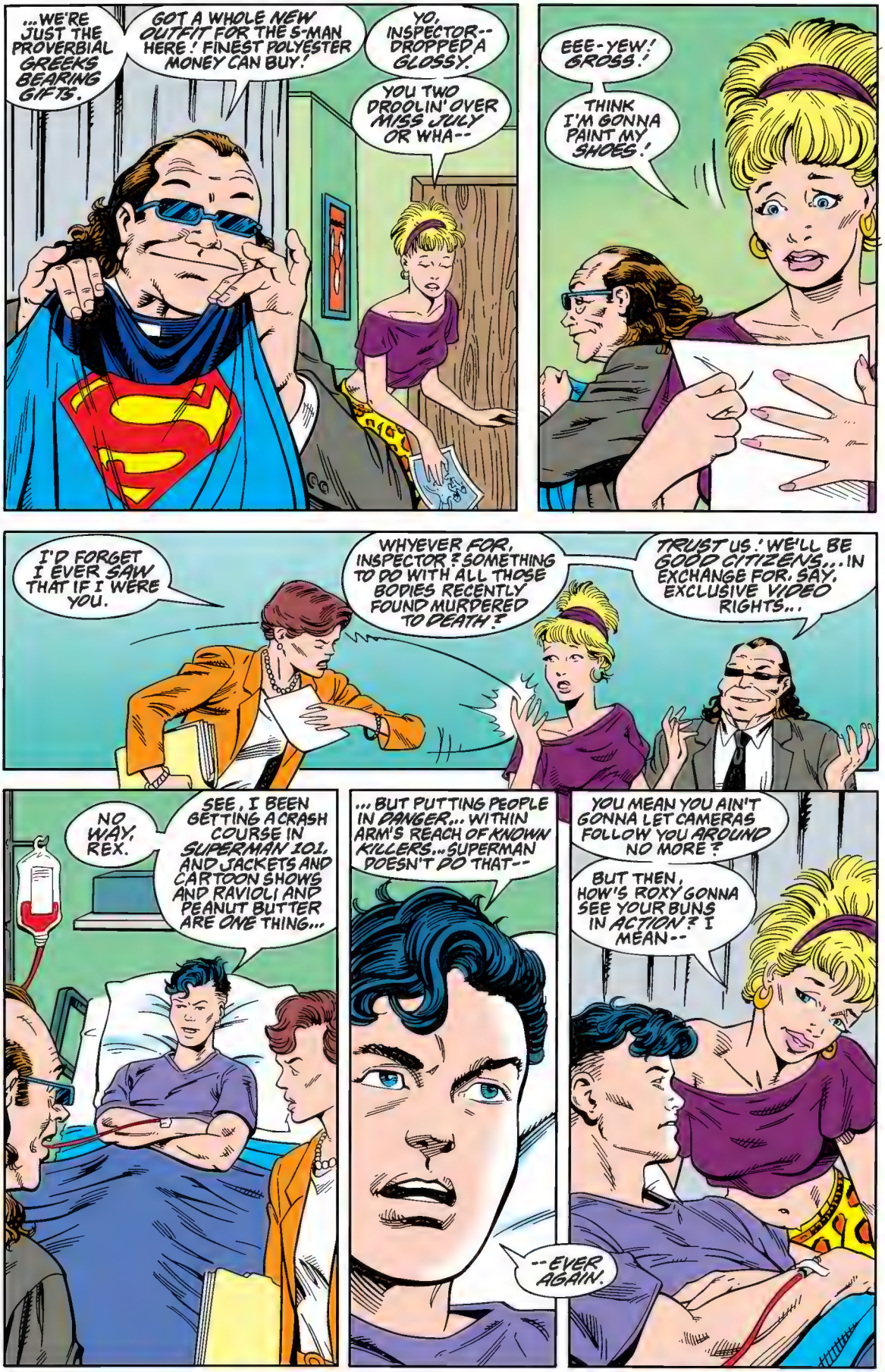

WAIT! YEAH, I'M SUPERMAN. THAT'S ME.
SEE, I JUST WANT THE I.V. OUT SO I CAN, UH, BOOK BACK TO COAST CITY AND HELP THE OTHER SUPER-DUDES.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M AFRAID OF NEEDLES OR ANYTHING.

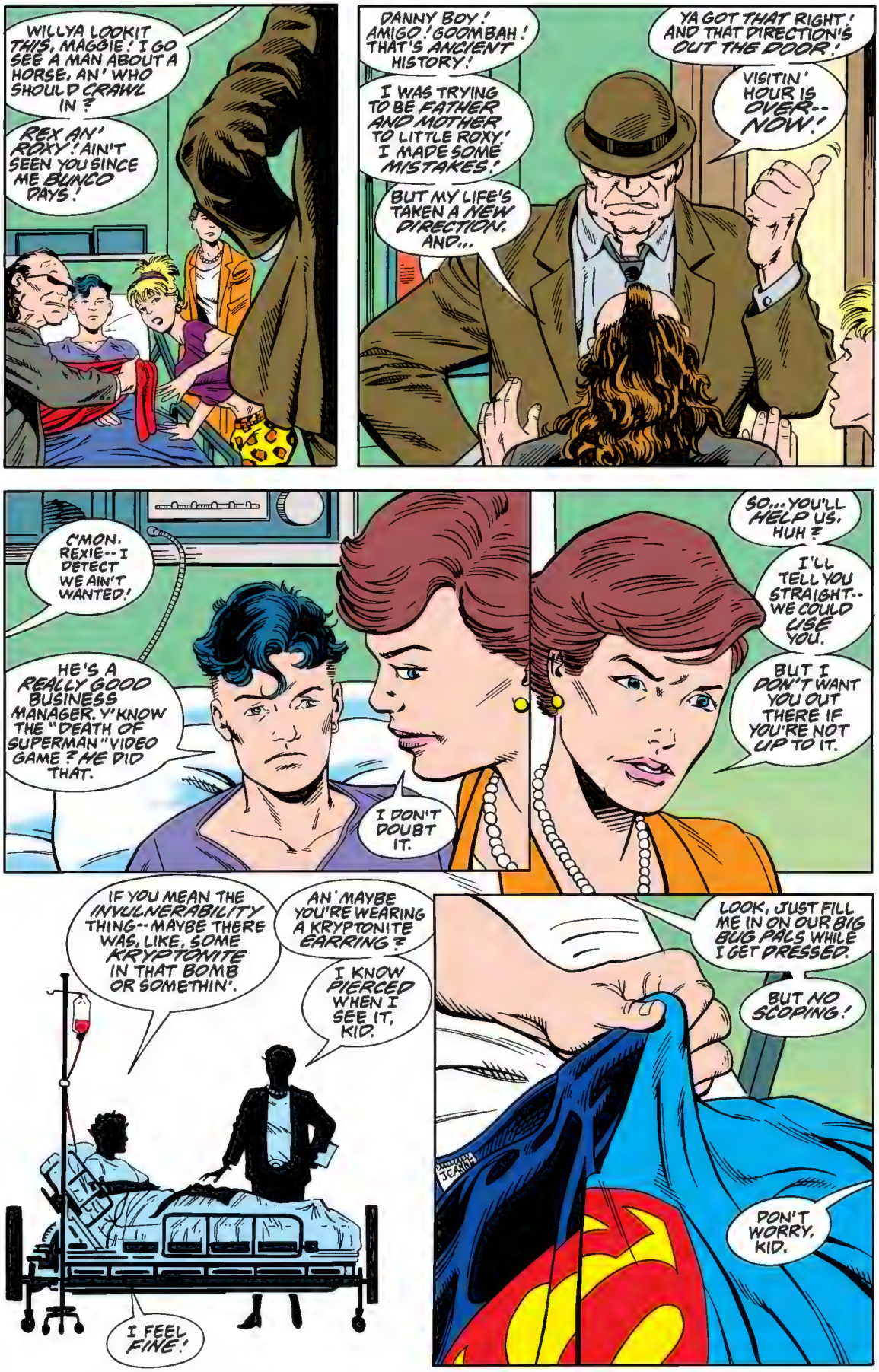

SURE.
LOOK, KID--YOUR NOBILITY'S TOUCHING, BUT METROPOLIS IS IN BIG TROUBLE, TOO.
IT NEEDS A SUPERMAN--AND RIGHT NOW YOU'RE ALL WE'VE GOT.

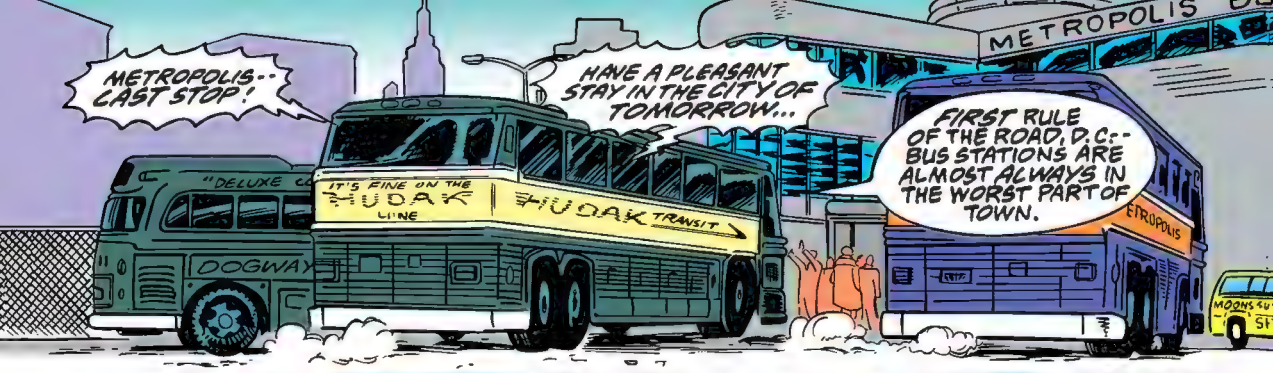
THE NAME'S MAGGIE SAWYER--HEAD HONCHO, METROPOLIS S.C.U. I'VE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO DEPUTIZE YOU IF YOU'LL HELP.
WE'RE DEALING WITH META-POWERED SERIAL KILLERS. REAL UGLY BUGS.
TAKE A LOOK.

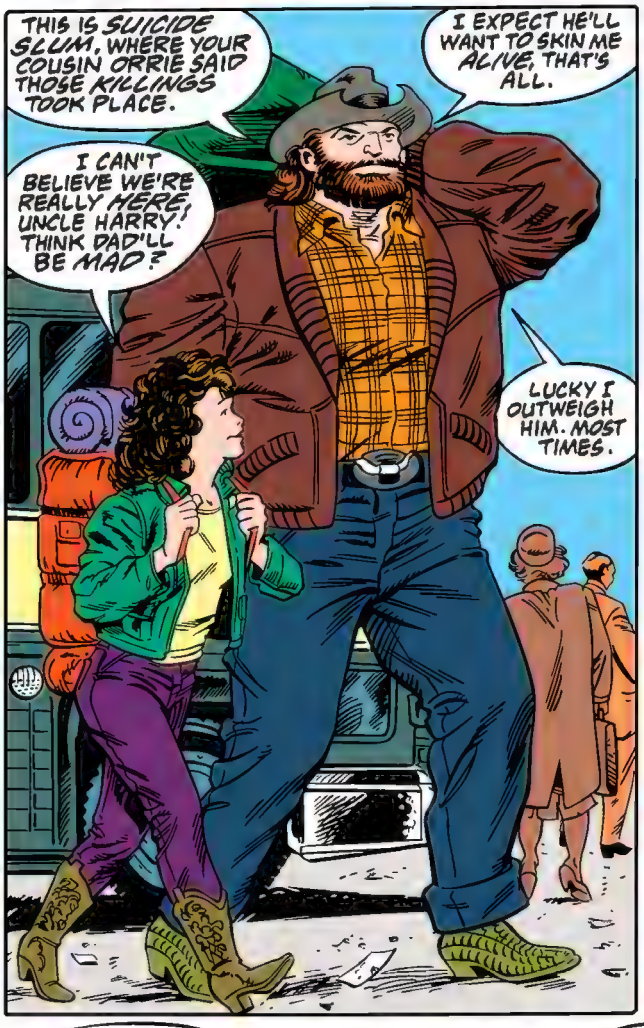

YOW! CREATURE-FEATURE TIME!
UH...THIS DEPUTY THING--WOULD I GET A BADGE?

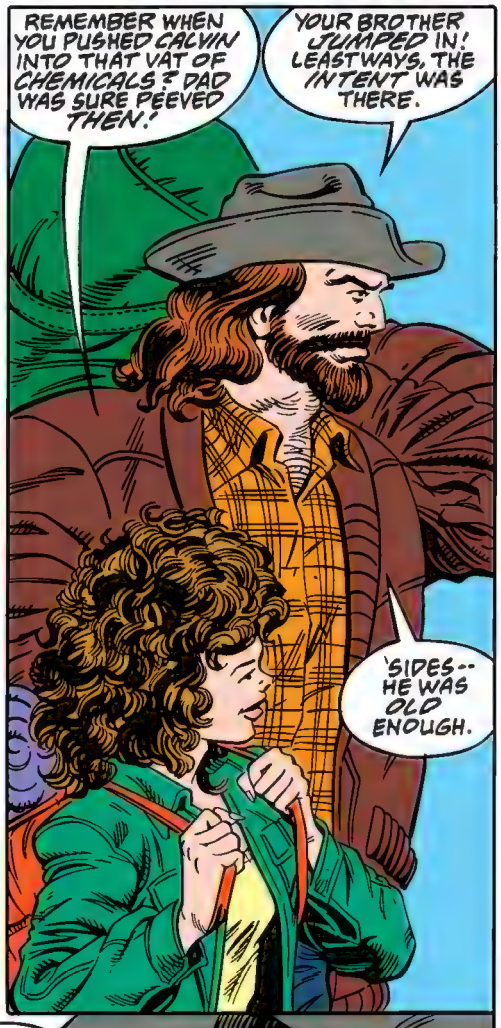

THINK THIS IS FUNNY, KID?
I'VE SEEN THESE MONSTERS GIVE THE VISORED SUPERMAN A RUN FOR HIS MONEY--
AND I KNOW YOU'RE NOT IN HIS POWER-LEAGUE.
I'D LIKE TO WAIT FOR SOME REAL HEAVY HITTERS, BUT I CAN'T.
IT'S BLOODY OUT THERE, AND IT'S JUST GOING TO GET MORE BLOODY.
SOUNDS LIKE MY LAST DIVORCE!
INSPECTOR SAWYER, RIGHT? PLEASED T'MEETCHA! REX LEECH, ATCHER SERVICE!
CHOKING
I'M WATCHA CALL THE KID'S PERSONAL BUSINESS MANAGER AND FINANCIAL ADVISOR-TYPE.
AND THIS HERE'S MY LOVELY-BUT-TALENTED DAUGHTER, ROXY!
HIYA!
L.A. MOD
HOW'D YOU TWO GET PAST TURPIN?
WE DIDN'T SEE NO ONE.
HOW'S IT HANGIN', BIG FELLA?
DON'T MIND US, INSPECTOR...

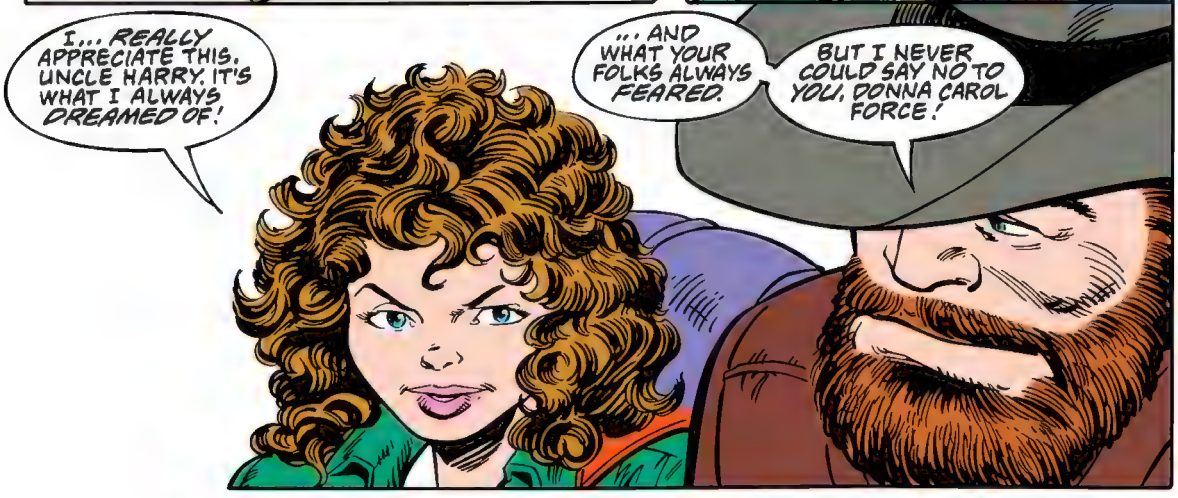

...WE'RE JUST THE PROVERBIAL GREEKS BEARING GIFTS.
GOT A WHOLE NEW OUTFIT FOR THE S-MAN HERE! FINEST POLYESTER MONEY CAN BUY!
YO, INSPECTOR-- DROPPED A GLOSSY.
YOU TWO DROOLIN' OVER MISS JULY OR WHA--
EEE-YEW! GROSS!
THINK I'M GONNA PAINT MY SHOES!
I'D FORGET I EVER SAW THAT IF I WERE YOU.
WHYEVER FOR, INSPECTOR? SOMETHING TO DO WITH ALL THOSE BODIES RECENTLY FOUND MURDERED TO DEATH?
TRUST US! WE'LL BE GOOD CITIZENS... IN EXCHANGE FOR, SAY, EXCLUSIVE VIDEO RIGHTS...
NO WAY, REX.
SEE, I BEEN GETTING A CRASH COURSE IN SUPERMAN 101, AND JACKETS AND CARTOON SHOWS AND RAVIOLI AND PEANUT BUTTER ARE ONE THING...
... BUT PUTTING PEOPLE IN DANGER... WITHIN ARM'S REACH OF KNOWN KILLERS... SUPERMAN DOESN'T DO THAT--
--EVER AGAIN.
YOU MEAN YOU AIN'T GONNA LET CAMERAS FOLLOW YOU AROUND NO MORE?
BUT THEN, HOW'S ROXY GONNA SEE YOUR BUNS IN ACTION? I MEAN--

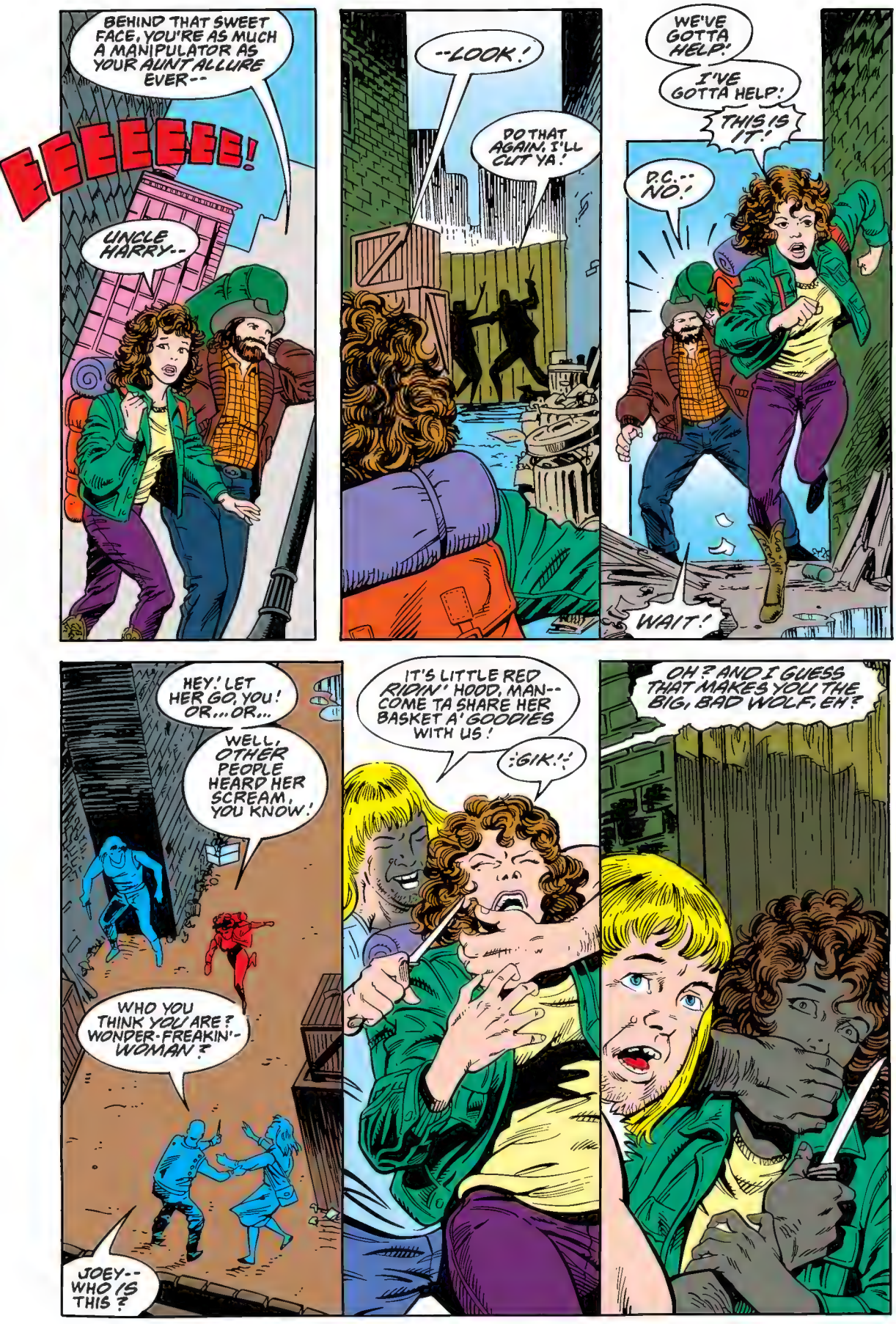

WILLYA LOOKIT THIS, MAGGIE! I GO SEE A MAN ABOUT A HORSE, AN' WHO SHOULD CRAWL IN?
REX AN' ROXY! AIN'T SEEN YOU SINCE ME BUNCO DAYS!
DANNY BOY! AMIGO! GOOMBAH! THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY!
I WAS TRYING TO BE FATHER AND MOTHER TO LITTLE ROXY! I MADE SOME MISTAKES!
BUT MY LIFE'S TAKEN A NEW DIRECTION. AND...
YA GOT THAT RIGHT! AND THAT DIRECTION'S OUT THE DOOR!
VISITIN' HOUR IS OVER-- NOW!
C'MON, REXIE-- I DETECT WE AIN'T WANTED!
HE'S A REALLY GOOD BUSINESS MANAGER. Y'KNOW THE "DEATH OF SUPERMAN" VIDEO GAME? HE DID THAT.
I DON'T DOUBT IT.
SO... YOU'LL HELP US, HUH?
I'LL TELL YOU STRAIGHT-- WE COULD USE YOU.
BUT I DON'T WANT YOU OUT THERE IF YOU'RE NOT UP TO IT.
IF YOU MEAN THE INVULNERABILITY THING-- MAYBE THERE WAS, LIKE, SOME KRYPTONITE IN THAT BOMB OR SOMETHIN'.
AN' MAYBE YOU'RE WEARING A KRYPTONITE EARRING?
I KNOW PIERCED WHEN I SEE IT, KID.
I FEEL FINE!
LOOK, JUST FILL ME IN ON OUR BIG BUG PALS WHILE I GET DRESSED.
BUT NO SCOPING!
DON'T WORRY, KID.


METROPOLIS
METROPOLIS-- LAST STOP!
HAVE A PLEASANT STAY IN THE CITY OF TOMORROW...
FIRST RULE OF THE ROAD, D.C.: BUS STATIONS ARE ALMOST ALWAYS IN THE WORST PART OF TOWN.
"DELUXE
IT'S FINE ON THE HUDAK LINE
HUDAK TRANSIT
DOGWAY
METROPOLIS

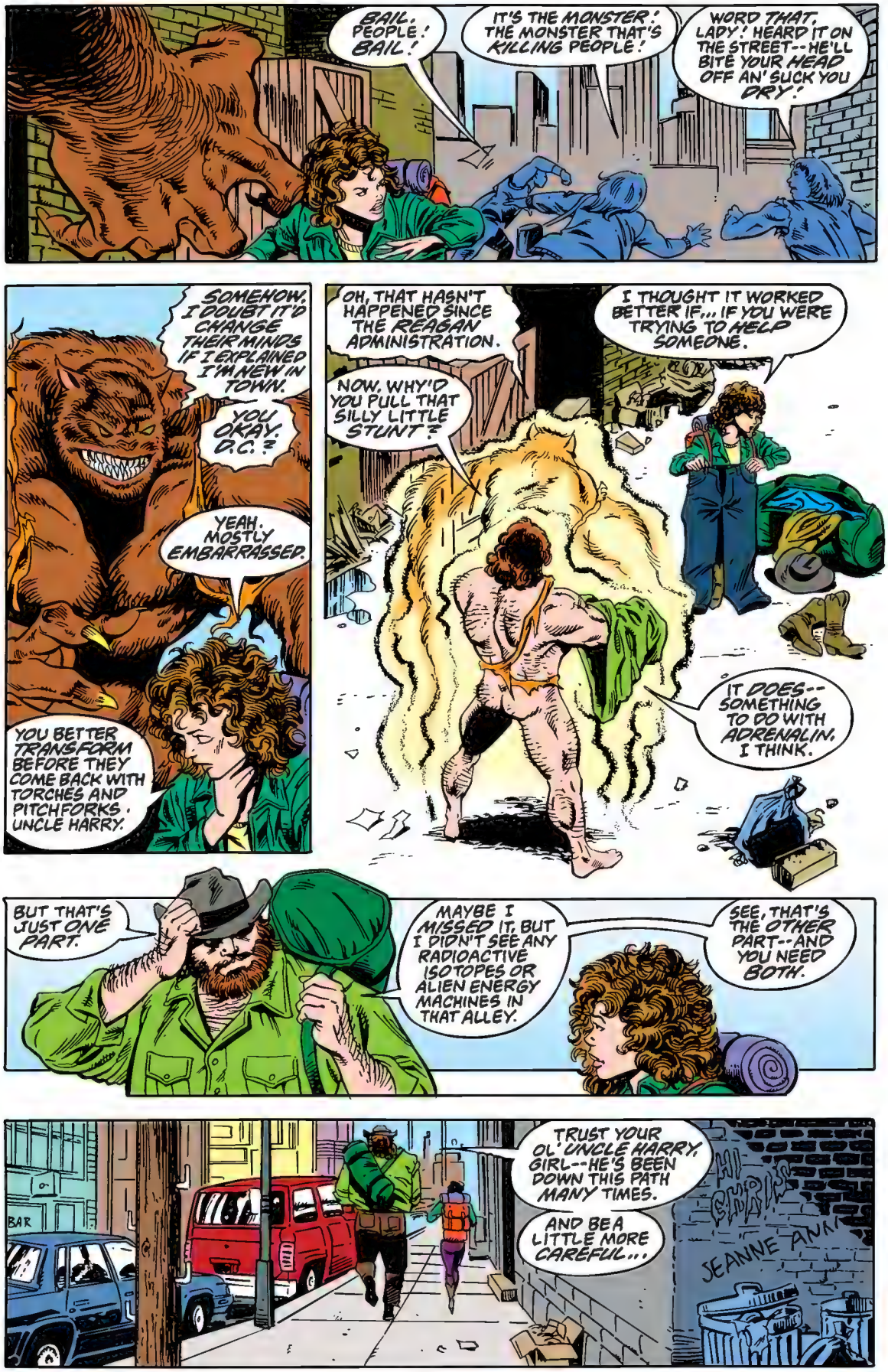

THIS IS SUICIDE SLUM, WHERE YOUR COUSIN ORRIE SAID THOSE KILLINGS TOOK PLACE.
I EXPECT HE'LL WANT TO SKIN ME ALIVE, THAT'S ALL.
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE REALLY HERE, UNCLE HARRY! THINK DAD'LL BE MAD?
LUCKY I OUTWEIGH HIM. MOST TIMES.

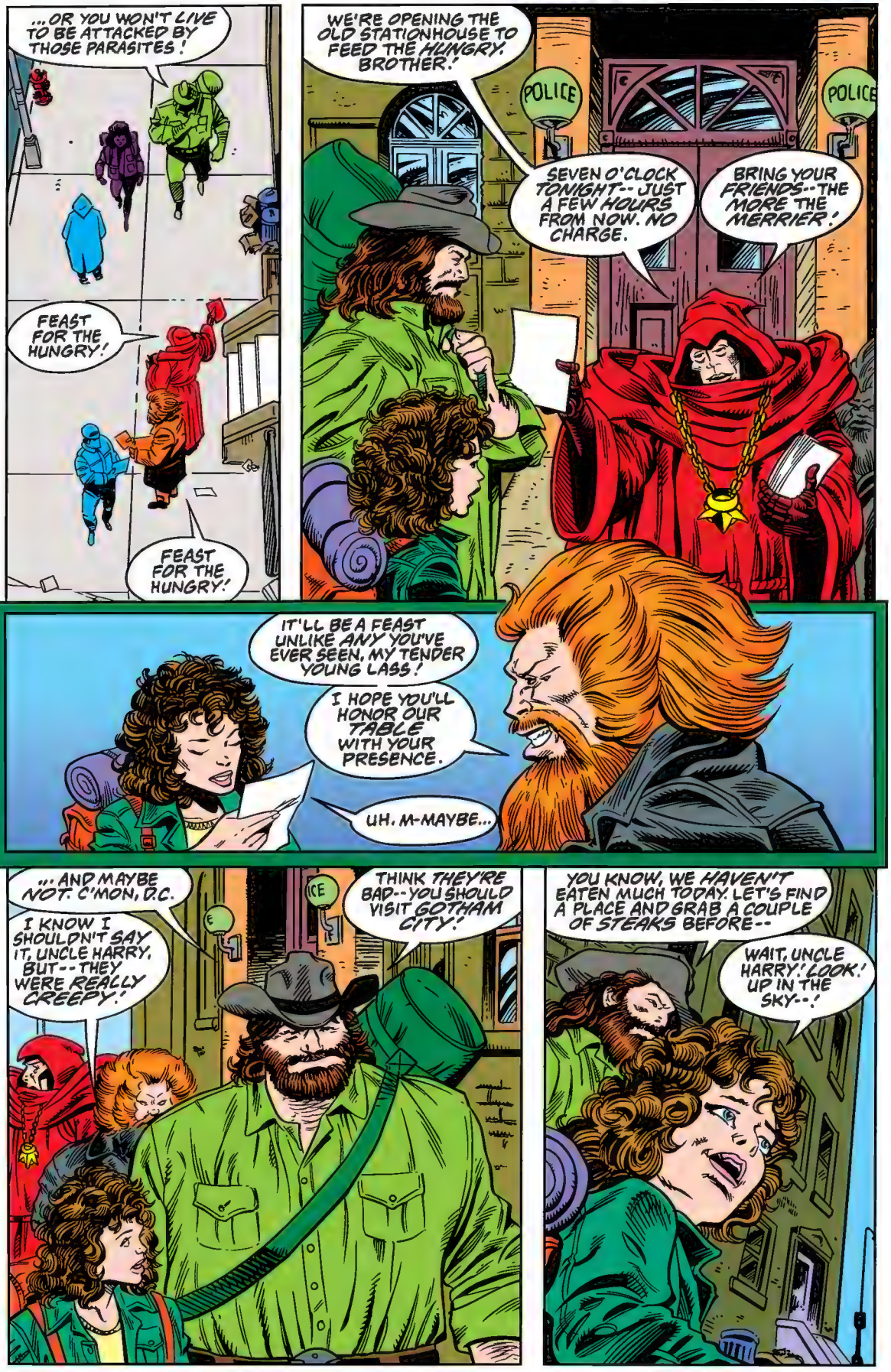

REMEMBER WHEN YOU PUSHED CALVIN INTO THAT VAT OF CHEMICALS? DAD WAS SURE PEEVED THEN!
YOUR BROTHER JUMPED IN! LEASTWAYS, THE INTENT WAS THERE.
'SIDES-- HE WAS OLD ENOUGH.


I... REALLY APPRECIATE THIS, UNCLE HARRY. IT'S WHAT I ALWAYS DREAMED OF!
... AND WHAT YOUR FOLKS ALWAYS FEARED.
BUT I NEVER COULD SAY NO TO YOU, DONNA CAROL FORCE!


BEHIND THAT SWEET FACE, YOU'RE AS MUCH A MANIPULATOR AS YOUR AUNT ALLURE EVER--
EEEEEEEE!
UNCLE HARRY--
--LOOK!
DO THAT AGAIN, I'LL CUT YA!
WE'VE GOTTA HELP!
I'VE GOTTA HELP!
THIS IS IT!
D.C.-- NO!
WAIT!
HEY! LET HER GO, YOU! OR... OR...
WELL, OTHER PEOPLE HEARD HER SCREAM, YOU KNOW!
WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE? WONDER-FREAKIN'-WOMAN?
JOEY-- WHO IS THIS?
IT'S LITTLE RED RIDIN' HOOD, MAN-- COME TA SHARE HER BASKET A' GOODIES WITH US!
:GIK!:
OH? AND I GUESS THAT MAKES YOU THE BIG, BAD WOLF, EH?

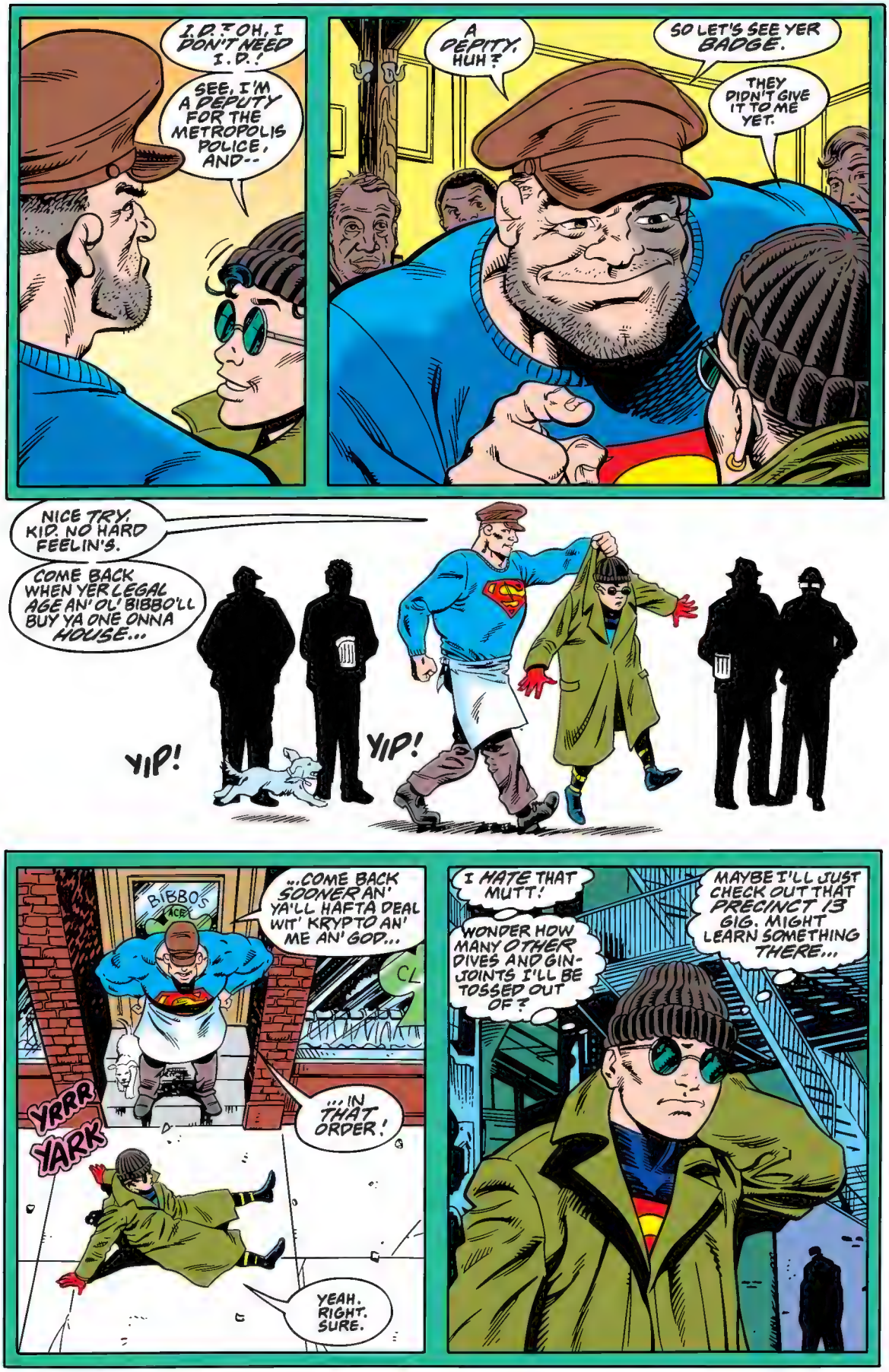
I DON'T THINK SO!
HANNIGAN + PEPOY


BAIL, PEOPLE! BAIL!
IT'S THE MONSTER! THE MONSTER THAT'S KILLING PEOPLE!
WORD THAT, LADY! HEARD IT ON THE STREET--HE'LL BITE YOUR HEAD OFF AN' SUCK YOU DRY!
SOMEHOW, I DOUBT IT'D CHANGE THEIR MINDS IF I EXPLAINED I'M NEW IN TOWN.
YOU OKAY, D.C.?
YEAH. MOSTLY EMBARRASSED.
YOU BETTER TRANSFORM BEFORE THEY COME BACK WITH TORCHES AND PITCHFORKS. UNCLE HARRY.
OH, THAT HASN'T HAPPENED SINCE THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION.
NOW, WHY'D YOU PULL THAT SILLY LITTLE STUNT?
I THOUGHT IT WORKED BETTER IF... IF YOU WERE TRYING TO HELP SOMEONE.
IT DOES--SOMETHING TO DO WITH ADRENALIN, I THINK.
BUT THAT'S JUST ONE PART.
MAYBE I MISSED IT, BUT I DIDN'T SEE ANY RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES OR ALIEN ENERGY MACHINES IN THAT ALLEY.
SEE, THAT'S THE OTHER PART--AND YOU NEED BOTH.
TRUST YOUR OL' UNCLE HARRY, GIRL--HE'S BEEN DOWN THIS PATH MANY TIMES.
AND BE A LITTLE MORE CAREFUL...
BAR
HI SKIPS
JEANNE ANN

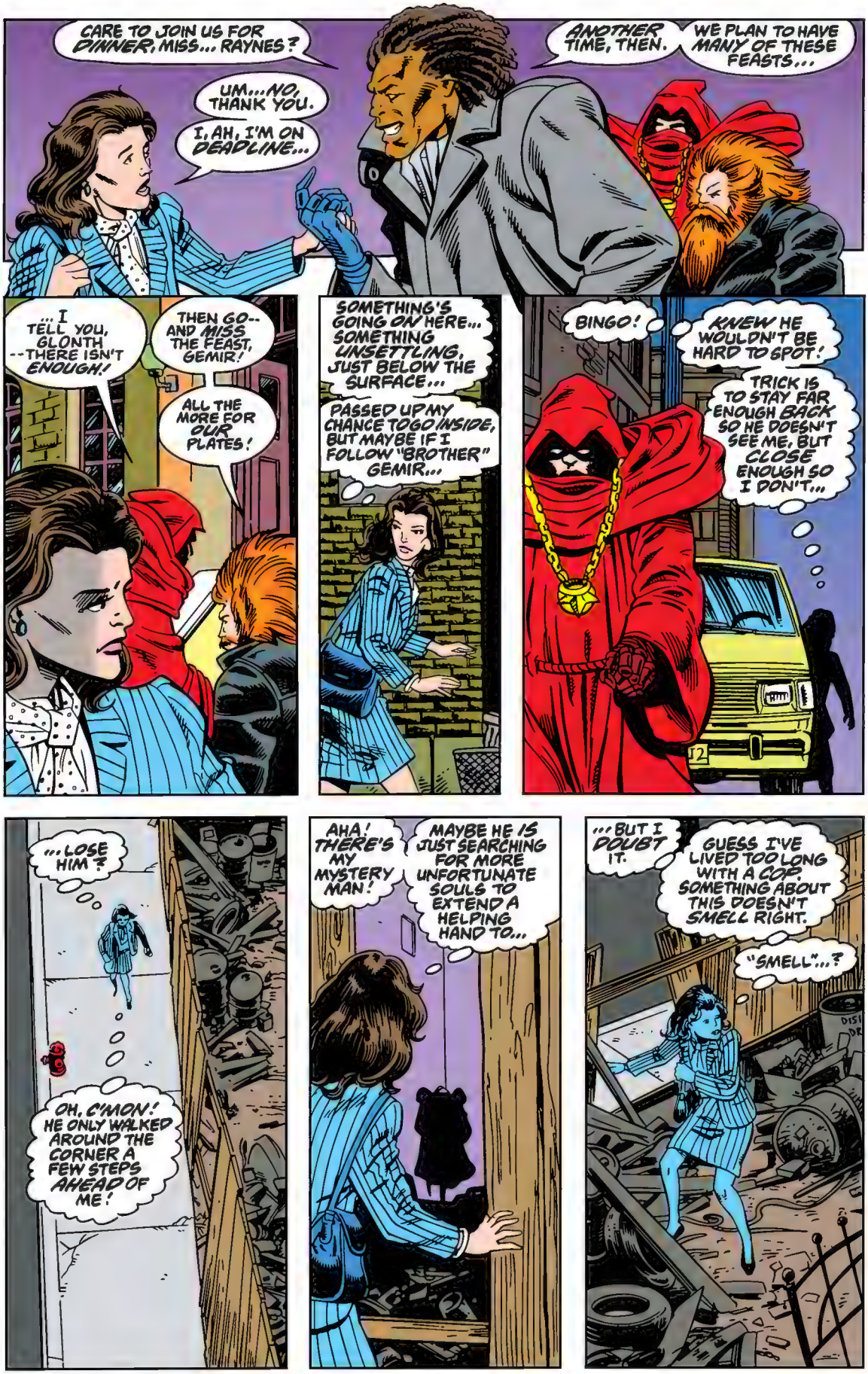

...OR YOU WON'T LIVE TO BE ATTACKED BY THOSE PARASITES!
FEAST FOR THE HUNGRY!
FEAST FOR THE HUNGRY!
WE'RE OPENING THE OLD STATIONHOUSE TO FEED THE HUNGRY, BROTHER!
POLICE
POLICE
SEVEN O'CLOCK TONIGHT-- JUST A FEW HOURS FROM NOW. NO CHARGE.
BRING YOUR FRIENDS--THE MORE THE MERRIER!
IT'LL BE A FEAST UNLIKE ANY YOU'VE EVER SEEN, MY TENDER YOUNG LASS!
I HOPE YOU'LL HONOR OUR TABLE WITH YOUR PRESENCE.
UH. M-MAYBE...
...AND MAYBE NOT. C'MON, D.C.
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T SAY IT, UNCLE HARRY, BUT--THEY WERE REALLY CREEPY!
THINK THEY'RE BAD--YOU SHOULD VISIT GOTHAM CITY!
ICE
YOU KNOW, WE HAVEN'T EATEN MUCH TODAY. LET'S FIND A PLACE AND GRAB A COUPLE OF STEAKS BEFORE--
WAIT, UNCLE HARRY! LOOK! UP IN THE SKY--!

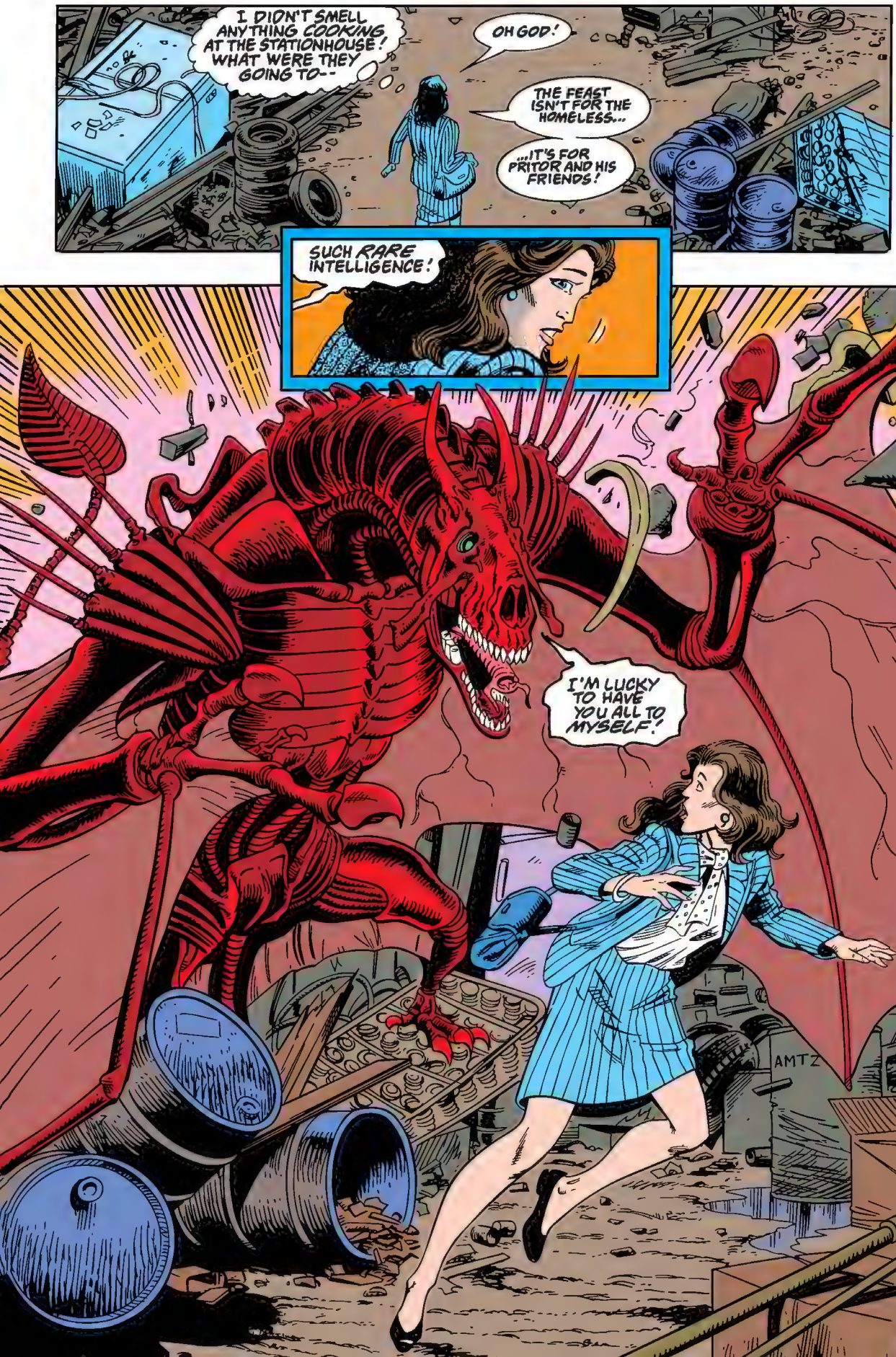
"IT'S SUPERMAN!"
MAGGIE SAID THE MOST RECENT KNOWN KILLINGS HAPPENED HERE IN SUICIDE SLUM.
WELL, SUPERMAN'S ON YOUR TRAIL NOW, BUGS!
I'LL FIND YOUR NEST...OR COLONY, OR WHATEVER YOU CALL IT!
HEY! MAYBE THEY'VE DUG ALL SORTS OF TUNNELS UNDER METROPOLIS! LIKE ANTS!
THAT'D BE MAJOR FRESH!
FIRST THINGS FIRST--GOTTA FIND OUT WHAT THEY SAY ON THE STREET. THAT'S WHAT THEY DO ON TV..
MAGGIE WANTS TO KEEP THIS LOW PROFILE, SO IT'S GOOD-BYE SUPERMAN, HELLO...
...UHH...
Y-KNOW.. MAYBE I NEED A SECRET IDENTITY!

HMMM. THIS LOOKS LIKE A WRETCHED HIVE OF SCUM AND VILLAINY.
I'LL START HERE.
ACE O' CLUBS
BAR GRI
...T'ROWS 'ER ROLLIN' PIN AT ME...
HUNDRED BOTTLES OF BEER ON THE WALL... HUNDRED BOTTLES OF...
SO HE SEZ-- HE SEZ THIS BEFORE HE DIES...
YO-- BIBBO! 'NOTHER KOUL BRAU!
..AN' MOOCH CARLIN, HE...
...SHARON STONE, HARV! ON ME MUDDER'S GRAVE! SHE WANTED ME!
...BEER...
SURE, FRED.
I TELL YA-- SHE GOT LEGS! THEY GO ALLA WAY TO 'ER WAIST!
SO-- YOU GOIN' TO THE FREE EATS AT PRECINCT 15 TONIGHT? OR DO YA GOT A DATE WITH SHARON?
I'M TELLIN' YA, HARV...
YRRRR!
HEY!
YO, BIBBO-- LOOKS LIKE KRYPTO SNIFFED OUT ANUDDER ONE!
YRRR GRRR
HEY! CUT IT OUT!
LEGGO MY COAT!
YOU'RE BLOWIN' MY COVER, ACE!
LOOK-- IN THE CORNER! KITTY-CAT! KITTY-CAT!
:A-HEM!:
GOT SOME I.D., KID?

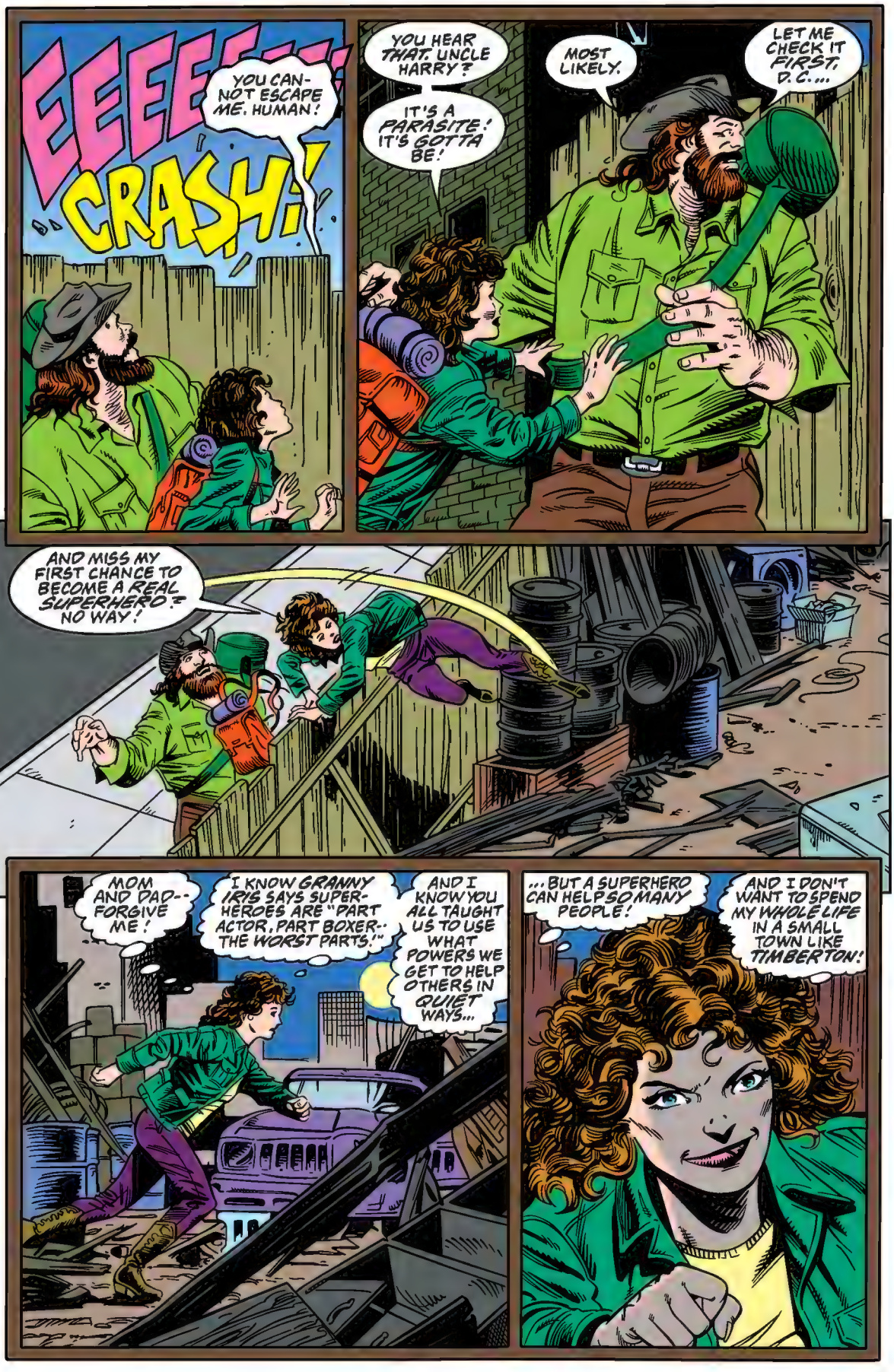

I.D.? OH, I DON'T NEED I.D.!
SEE, I'M A DEPUTY FOR THE METROPOLIS POLICE, AND--
A DEPITY, HUH?
SO LET'S SEE YER BADGE.
THEY DIDN'T GIVE IT TO ME YET.
NICE TRY, KID. NO HARD FEELIN'S.
COME BACK WHEN YER LEGAL AGE AN' OL' BIBBO'LL BUY YA ONE ONNA HOUSE...
YIP!
YIP!
BIBBO'S
ACE
...COME BACK SOONER AN' YA'LL HAFTA DEAL WIT' KRYPTO AN' ME AN' GOD...
...IN THAT ORDER!
YRRR
YARK
YEAH. RIGHT. SURE.
I HATE THAT MUTT!
WONDER HOW MANY OTHER DIVES AND GIN-JOINTS I'LL BE TOSSED OUT OF?
MAYBE I'LL JUST CHECK OUT THAT PRECINCT 13 GIG. MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING THERE...

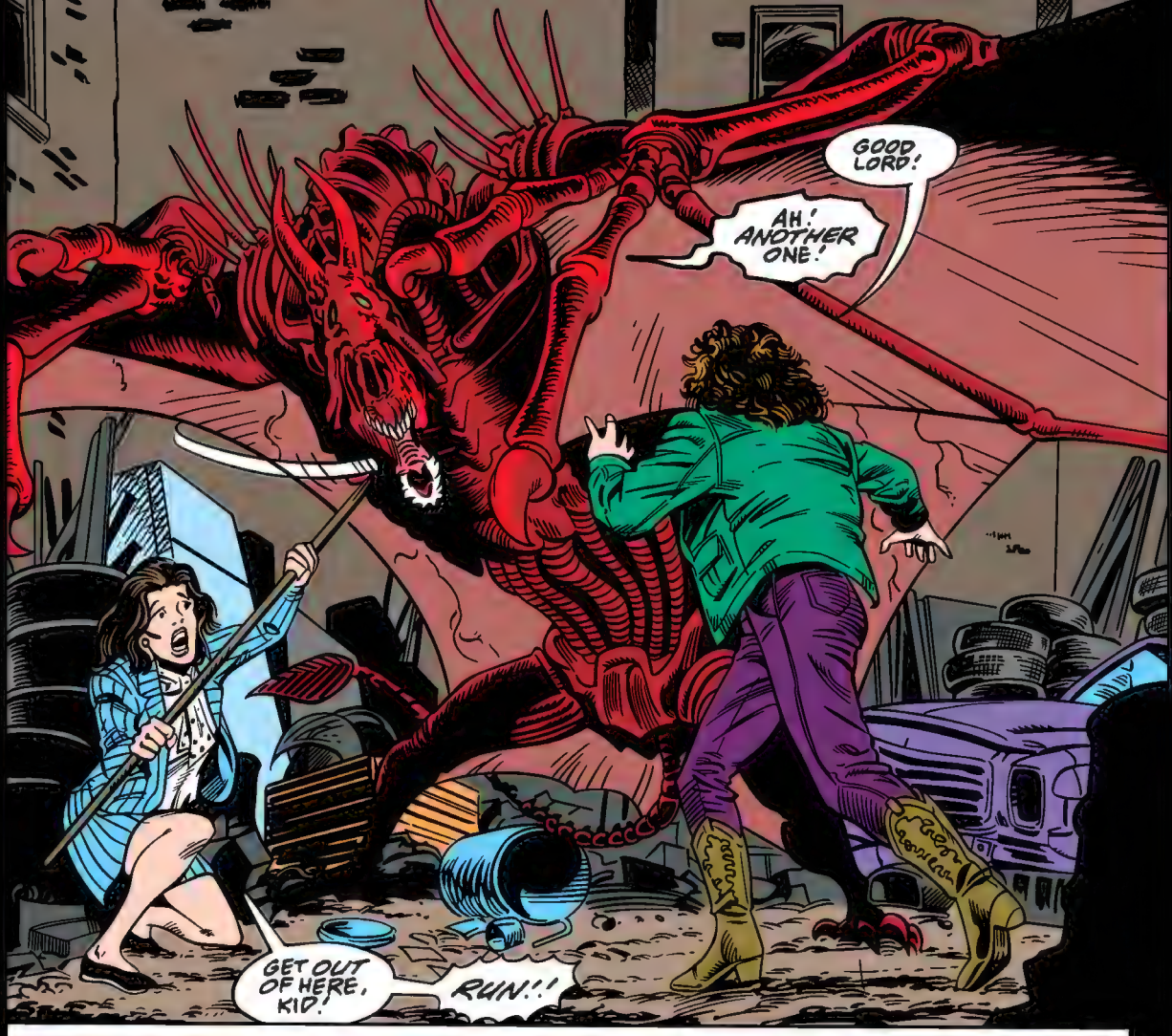
"... IF I CAN FIND THE PLACE!"
...VERY PROUD OF WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE AT THE OLD PRECINCT 13 STATIONHOUSE.
WHEN THERE IS HUNGER, YOU CANNOT IGNORE IT, YOUNG LADY.
THE NAME'S RAYNES, MR. PRITOR-- TOBY RAYNES, FROM THE METROPOLIS STAR, AS I MENTIONED TWICE ALREADY...
EXCUSE ME. I HAVE TROUBLE WITH NAMES...
...AND MY FRIENDS AND I DID NOT EXPECT... THIS SORT OF MEDIA ATTENTION.
FRANKLY, WE DO NOT WANT RECOGNITION. WE DO THIS BECAUSE WE MUST.
WE DO NOT CONSIDER FAME OR FORTUNE... RIGHT OR WRONG... GOOD OR EVIL...
"GOOD OR EVIL"?
HOW COULD ANYONE THINK WHAT YOU DO IS EVIL, MR. PRITOR?
IGNORANCE.
I HAVE ALWAYS FELT IT SHOULD BE ONE OF THE CARDINAL SINS...
PRITOR-- THE FOOD IS IN PLACE. TARRY TOO LONG AND I WILL BE FORCED TO START THE FEAST WITHOUT YOU!
ANTICIPATION BUILDS THE APPETITE, GLONTH! THERE WILL BE ENOUGH FOR ALL-- EVEN BY YOUR STANDARDS!
POLITE
13

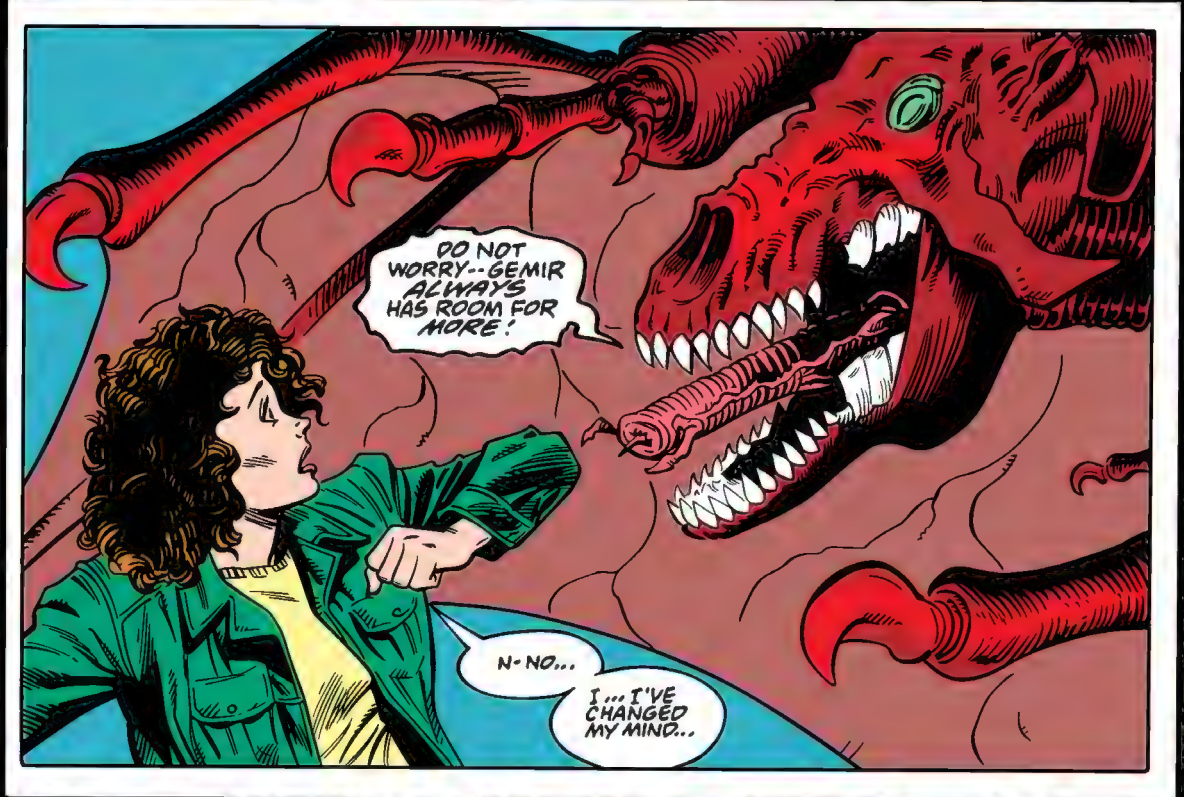

CARE TO JOIN US FOR DINNER, MISS... RAYNES?
UM...NO, THANK YOU.
I, AH, I'M ON DEADLINE...
ANOTHER TIME, THEN.
WE PLAN TO HAVE MANY OF THESE FEASTS...
...I TELL YOU, GLONTH --THERE ISN'T ENOUGH!
THEN GO-- AND MISS THE FEAST, GEMIR!
ALL THE MORE FOR OUR PLATES!
SOMETHING'S GOING ON HERE... SOMETHING UNSETTLING, JUST BELOW THE SURFACE...
PASSED UP MY CHANCE TO GO INSIDE, BUT MAYBE IF I FOLLOW "BROTHER" GEMIR...
BINGO!
KNEW HE WOULDN'T BE HARD TO SPOT!
TRICK IS TO STAY FAR ENOUGH BACK SO HE DOESN'T SEE ME, BUT CLOSE ENOUGH SO I DON'T...
...LOSE HIM?
OH, C'MON! HE ONLY WALKED AROUND THE CORNER A FEW STEPS AHEAD OF ME!
AHA! THERE'S MY MYSTERY MAN!
MAYBE HE IS JUST SEARCHING FOR MORE UNFORTUNATE SOULS TO EXTEND A HELPING HAND TO...
...BUT I DOUBT IT.
GUESS I'VE LIVED TOO LONG WITH A COP. SOMETHING ABOUT THIS DOESN'T SMELL RIGHT.
"SMELL"...?


I DIDN'T SMELL ANYTHING COOKING AT THE STATIONHOUSE! WHAT WERE THEY GOING TO--
OH GOD!
THE FEAST ISN'T FOR THE HOMELESS...
...IT'S FOR PRITOR AND HIS FRIENDS!
SUCH RARE INTELLIGENCE!
I'M LUCKY TO HAVE YOU ALL TO MYSELF!
AMTZ

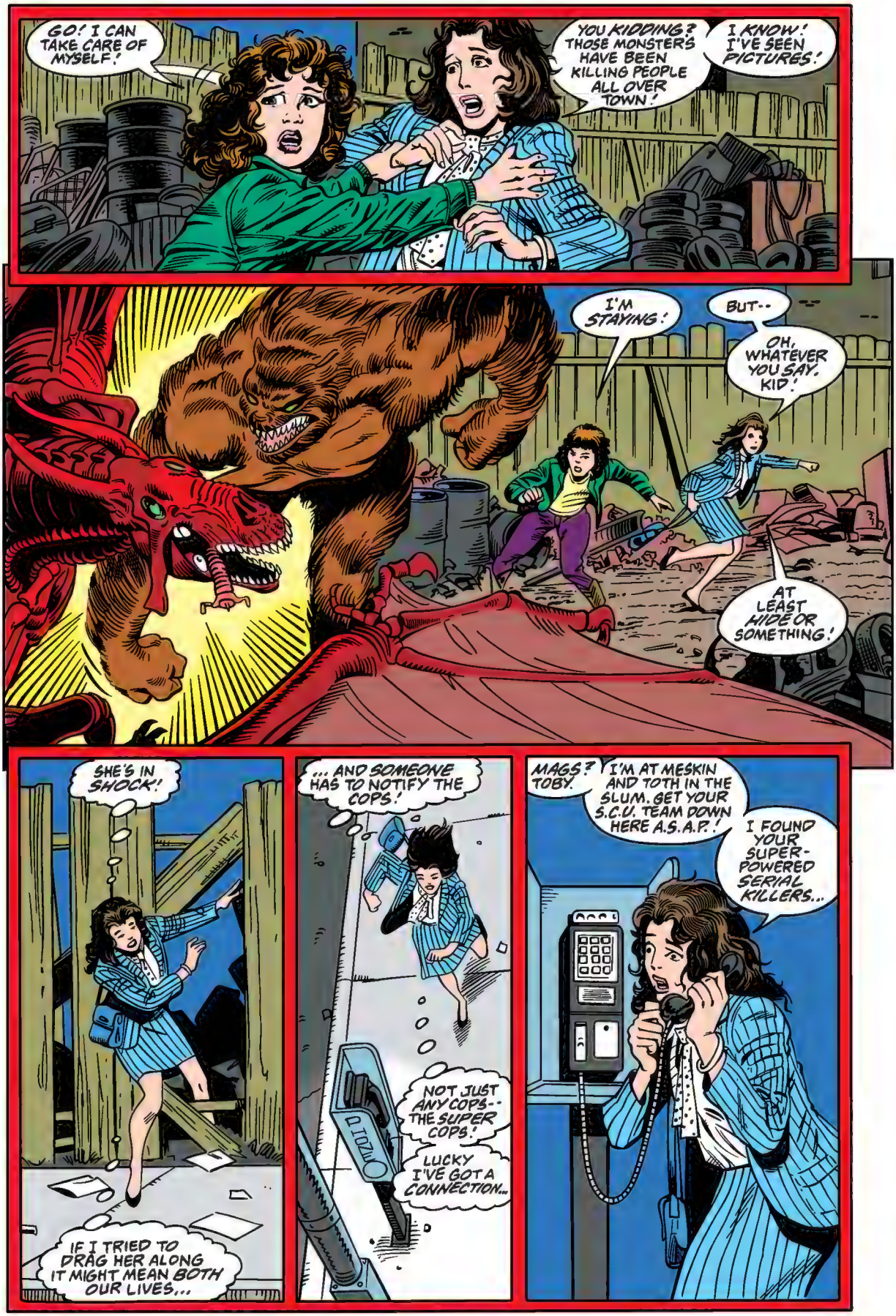
...CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THOSE PARASITES DON'T COME AND GET IT!
WE'RE A FREE LUNCH... AND ABOUT THE ONLY THING ON THE MENU, TOO!
A LOT OF FOLKS COULD BE AT THAT DINNER--AND MAYBE THERE'S A CURFEW BECAUSE OF THE KILLINGS...
THAT'S MY POINT, D.C.!
A NICE, DARK NIGHT LIKE THIS--IT'S PERFECT FOR AMBUSHING US!
WE'RE DOING OUR PART...
MAYBE... MAYBE WE SHOULD FORGET THE WHOLE THING, UNCLE HARRY.
I MEAN--WHAT IF IT DOESN'T WORK? WHAT IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG?
NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TO YOU, D.C.--I PROMISE!
YOU GOT THE META-GENE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE IN THE FORCE FAMILY...
...YOU'LL BE A SUPERHERO, JUST LIKE YOU WANT.
I'LL FIGURE A WAY...
MAYBE IT WASN'T MEANT TO BE, UNCLE HARRY--NOT THIS TIME, ANYWAY.
WELL... I HEARD OF A GLOWING METEOR UP IN SASKATOON...
LET'S HEAD THAT WAY TOMORROW, THEN.
Y'KNOW, I BET THOSE PARASITES ALREADY LEFT TOWN...


EEEE---
CRASH!
YOU CAN-NOT ESCAPE ME, HUMAN!
YOU HEAR THAT, UNCLE HARRY?
IT'S A PARASITE! IT'S GOTTA BE!
MOST LIKELY.
LET ME CHECK IT FIRST, D.C....
AND MISS MY FIRST CHANCE TO BECOME A REAL SUPERHERO? NO WAY!
MOM AND DAD-- FORGIVE ME!
I KNOW GRANNY IRIS SAYS SUPER-HEROES ARE "PART ACTOR, PART BOXER-- THE WORST PARTS!"
AND I KNOW YOU ALL TAUGHT US TO USE WHAT POWERS WE GET TO HELP OTHERS IN QUIET WAYS...
...BUT A SUPERHERO CAN HELP SO MANY PEOPLE!
AND I DON'T WANT TO SPEND MY WHOLE LIFE IN A SMALL TOWN LIKE TIMBERTON!

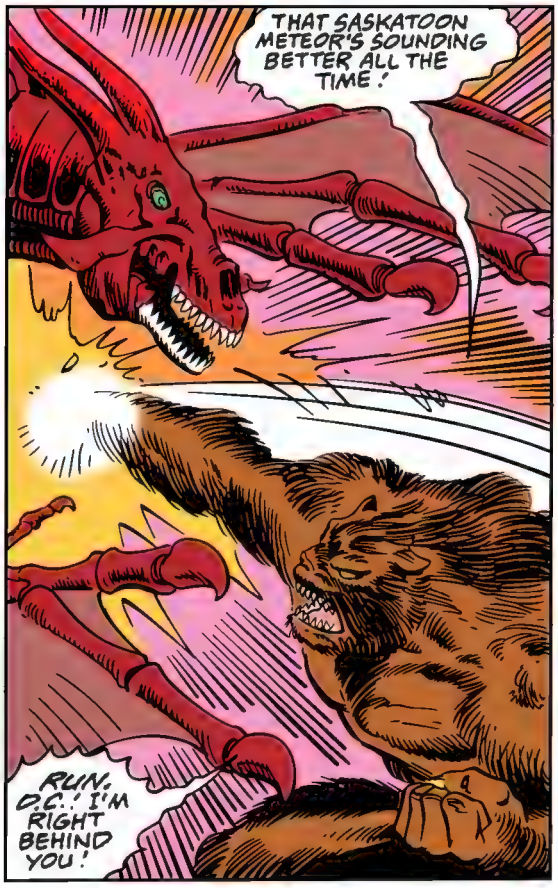

GOOD LORD!
AH! ANOTHER ONE!
GET OUT OF HERE, KID!
RUN!!


DO NOT WORRY--GEMIR ALWAYS HAS ROOM FOR MORE!
N-NO...
I... I'VE CHANGED MY MIND...

ISN'T THAT JUST LIKE A WOMAN!
A REAL KICK IN THE HEAD, HUH, PAL?
THOOM


GO! I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF!
YOU KIDDING? THOSE MONSTER'S HAVE BEEN KILLING PEOPLE ALL OVER TOWN!
I KNOW! I'VE SEEN PICTURES!
I'M STAYING!
BUT--
OH, WHATEVER YOU SAY, KID!
AT LEAST HIDE OR SOMETHING!
SHE'S IN SHOCK!
IF I TRIED TO DRAG HER ALONG IT MIGHT MEAN BOTH OUR LIVES...
... AND SOMEONE HAS TO NOTIFY THE COPS!
NOT JUST ANY COPS-- THE SUPER COPS!
LUCKY I'VE GOT A CONNECTION...
MAGS? TOBY.
I'M AT MESKIN AND TOTH IN THE SLUM. GET YOUR S.C.U. TEAM DOWN HERE A.S.A.P.!
I FOUND YOUR SUPER-POWERED SERIAL KILLERS...

"...AND THEY'RE FIGHTING OVER WHO GETS A YOUNG GIRL AS AN APPETIZER!"
YOU HAVE COST ME ONE PRIZE, BEAST!
BUT YOU SHALL MORE THAN TAKE ITS PLACE!
SHRAMM!
UNCLE HARRY--YOU OKAY?
IS THIS GOING TO WORK?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "IS THIS GOING TO WORK?"
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO GET BIT BY THIS BUG!
NEITHER OF YOU HAVE ANY CHOICE!
YOU ARE BOTH MINE!

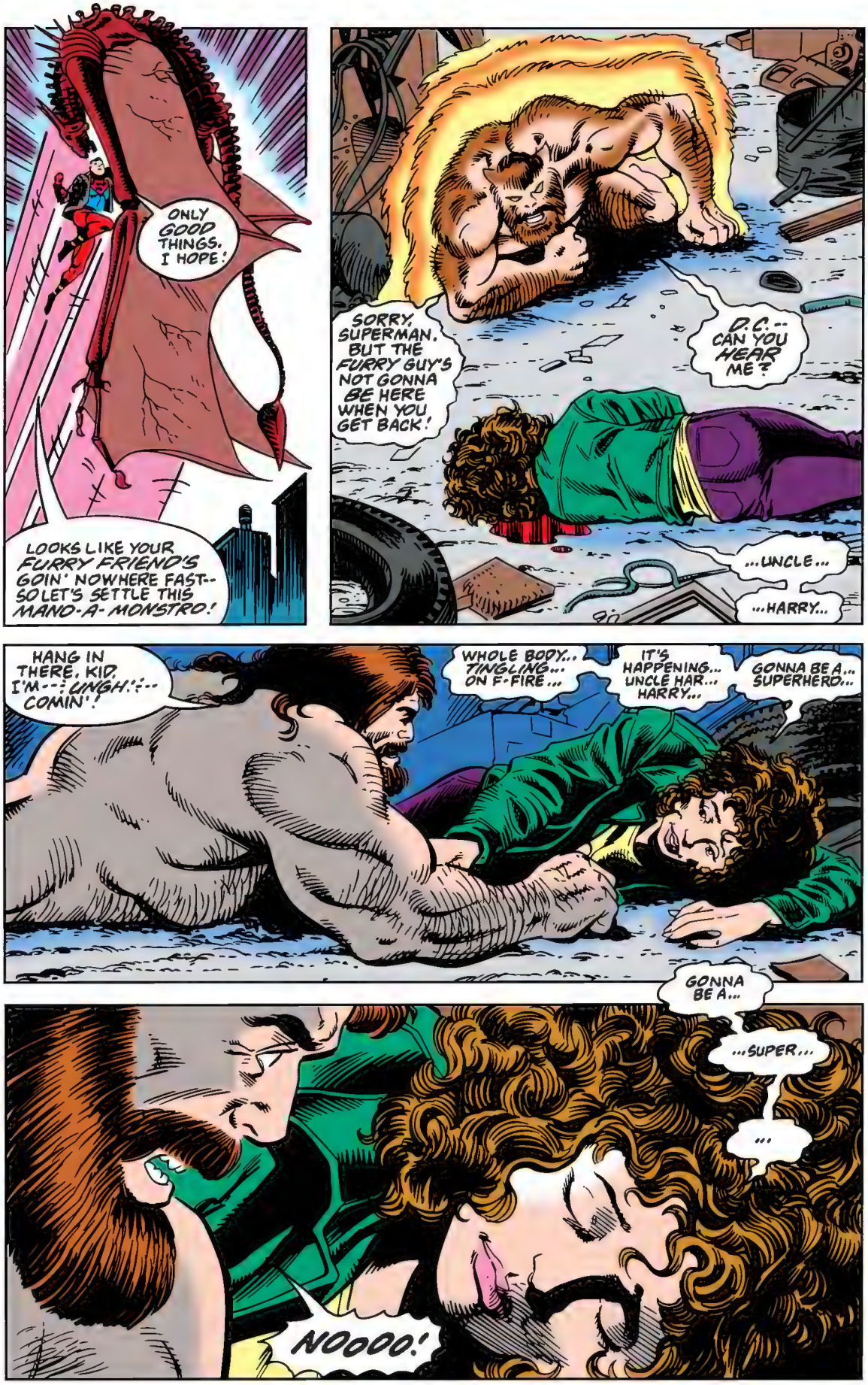

THAT SASKATOON METEOR'S SOUNDING BETTER ALL THE TIME!
RUN, D.C.! I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

NO ONE SHALL RUN ANYWHERE!
LEAST OF ALL YOU, BEAST!
KRAK!
:ANGH!:

LEG'S... BUSTED!
NO!
YOUR META-GENE'S ALREADY ACTIVATED! HIS BITE'LL PROBABLY KILL YOU!
LEAVE ME, D.C.! SAVE YOURSELF!

AND DO YOU THINK YOU ARE ANY DIFFERENT, GIRL?
PUT HER DOWN!

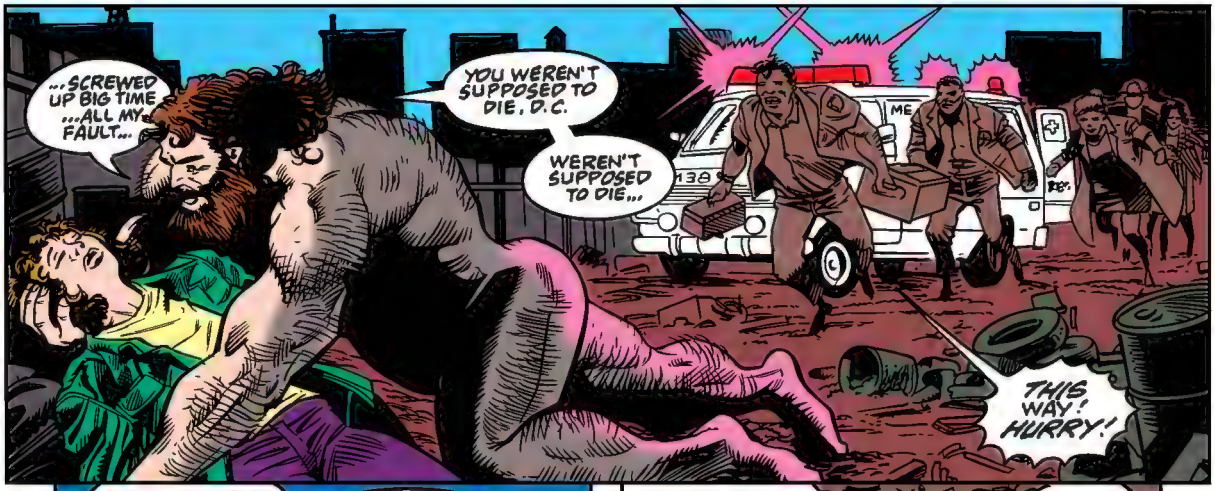
OF COURSE I SHALL PUT HER DOWN...
I... I'M SCARED, UNCLE HARRY! I'M SCA--
... AS SOON AS I AM FINISHED WITH HER!
--AAAAAA!
NO!
A BEAUTIFUL BABE IN TROUBLE AND ONE OF THE DEADHEADS I'M LOOKIN' FOR?
WHAM!
THIS IS MOST DEFINITELY A JOB FOR SUPERMAN!
OOHHH...
THE YOUNG ONE! PRITOR TOLD US ABOUT YOU!

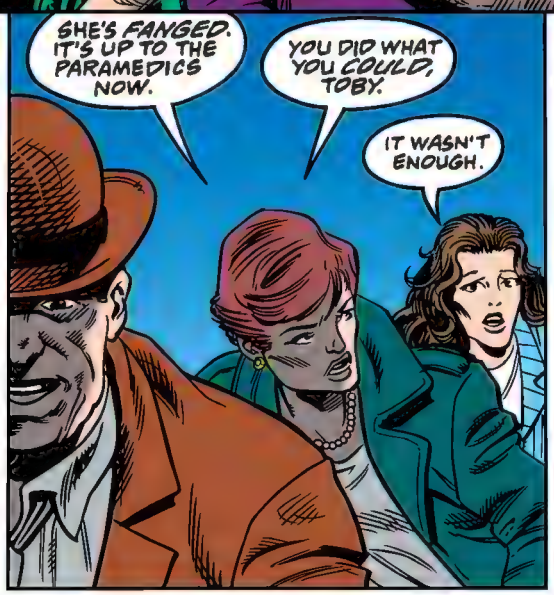

ONLY GOOD THINGS, I HOPE!
LOOKS LIKE YOUR FURRY FRIEND'S GOIN' NOWHERE FAST-- SO LET'S SETTLE THIS MANO-A-MONSTRO!
SORRY, SUPERMAN, BUT THE FURRY GUY'S NOT GONNA BE HERE WHEN YOU GET BACK!
D.C.-- CAN YOU HEAR ME?
...UNCLE...
...HARRY...
HANG IN THERE, KID. I'M--; UNGH.:-- COMIN'!
WHOLE BODY... TINGLING... ON F-FIRE...
IT'S HAPPENING... UNCLE HAR... HARRY...
GONNA BE A... SUPERHERO...
GONNA BE A...
...SUPER...
...
NOOOO!

OOOOOOWEEEEOOOOWEEEOOOO
PRECINCT
OLICE
LICE
THE HUMAN LAW ENFORCERS!
HOW DID THEY DISCOVER OUR PLAN? HOW?
TEMPER, ANGON! MORE LIKELY THEY ARE INVESTIGATING SOME OTHER ACTIVITY.
BUT PERHAPS IT WOULD BE GOOD TO THINK OF THEIR SIRENS...
...AS OUR CALL TO DINNER!
LET THE FEASTING BEGIN!
YES!
DON'T KNOW WHAT THE MAGSTER WAS TALKIN' ABOUT!
THOK!!
THIS IS EASIER THAN LICKIN' STAMPS!

BEFORE I, LIKE, TOTALLY KNOCK YOUR BLOCK CLEAN OFF-- I JUST WANNA KNOW ONE THING...
KRAM-BAM-BOOM
...WHERE'S THE REST OF YOUR HOMEBOYS?
DO YOU THINK GEMIR IS SO STUPID? SO WEAK?

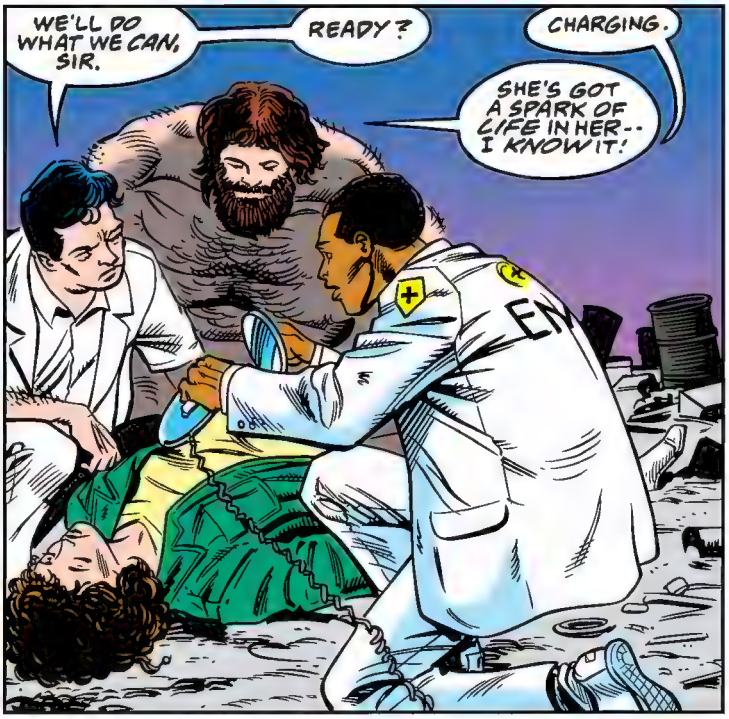
LOOK AROUND YOU, BOY!
GEMIR HAS TRICKED YOU INTO THE BELLY OF THE BEAST!
UM... YEAH. OKAY THIS IS NO PROBLEM. I CAN DEAL WITH THIS.
I THINK.

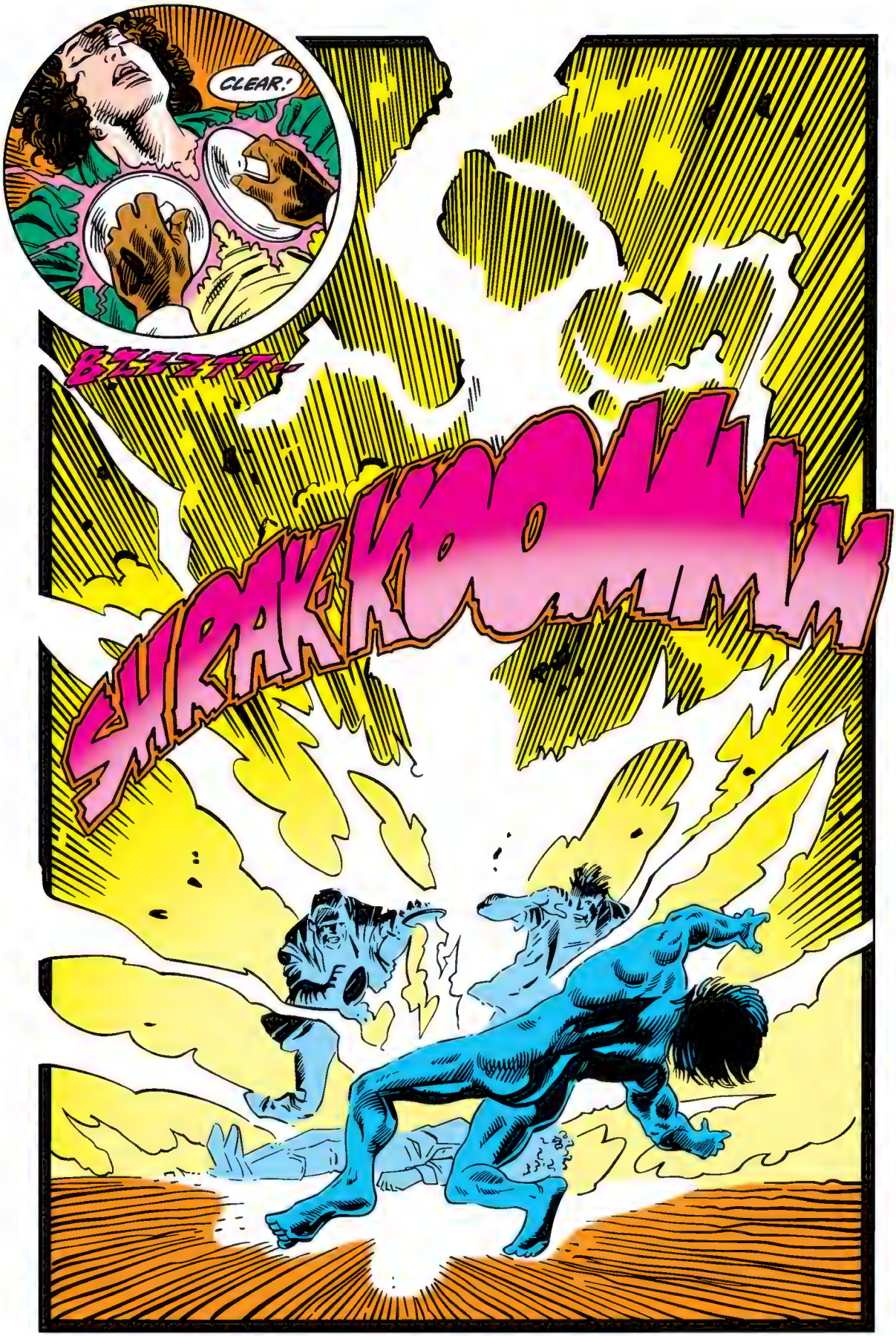

...SCREWED UP BIG TIME ...ALL MY FAULT...
YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE, D.C.
WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE...
ME
THIS WAY! HURRY!


SHE'S FANGED. IT'S UP TO THE PARAMEDICS NOW.
YOU DID WHAT YOU COULD, TOBY.
IT WASN'T ENOUGH.

THOSE... THINGS ARE IN STATIONHOUSE 13, MAGGIE.
END THIS!
SIR-- YOUR LEG.
DO HER FIRST.
EMT
THAT'S THE PLAN. C'MON, TURPIN!
MAGGIE-- AIN'T ANYONE ELSE NOTICED THERE'S A BUCK-NAKED MAN HERE?

"DAN-- WE HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT RIGHT NOW!"
SHE'S NOT RESPONDING.
DON'T GIVE UP! YOU CAN BRING HER BACK!


WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN, SIR.
READY?
CHARGING.
SHE'S GOT A SPARK OF LIFE IN HER-- I KNOW IT!
EMT

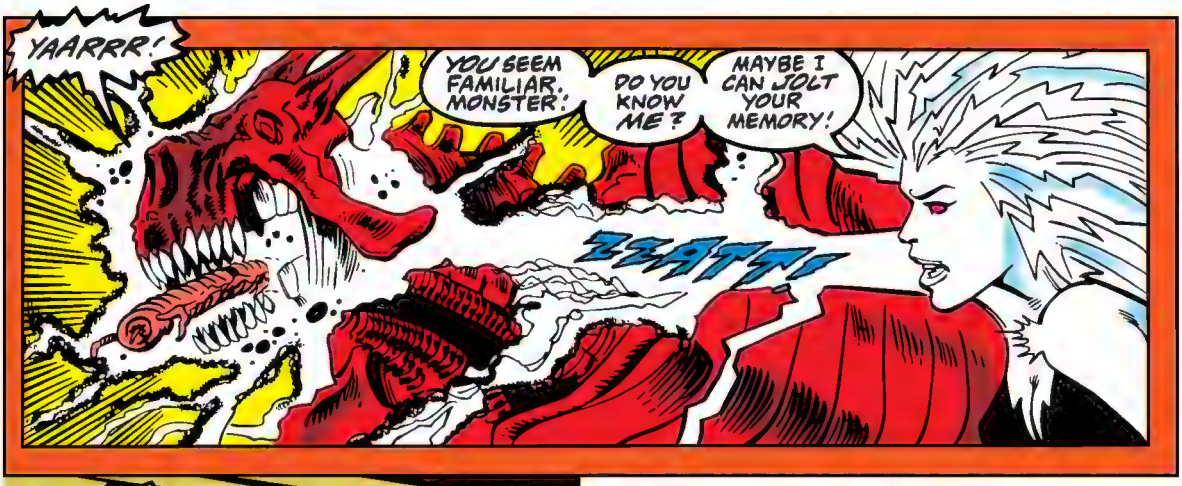

CLEAR!
BZZZTT-
SKRAK-KOOOM

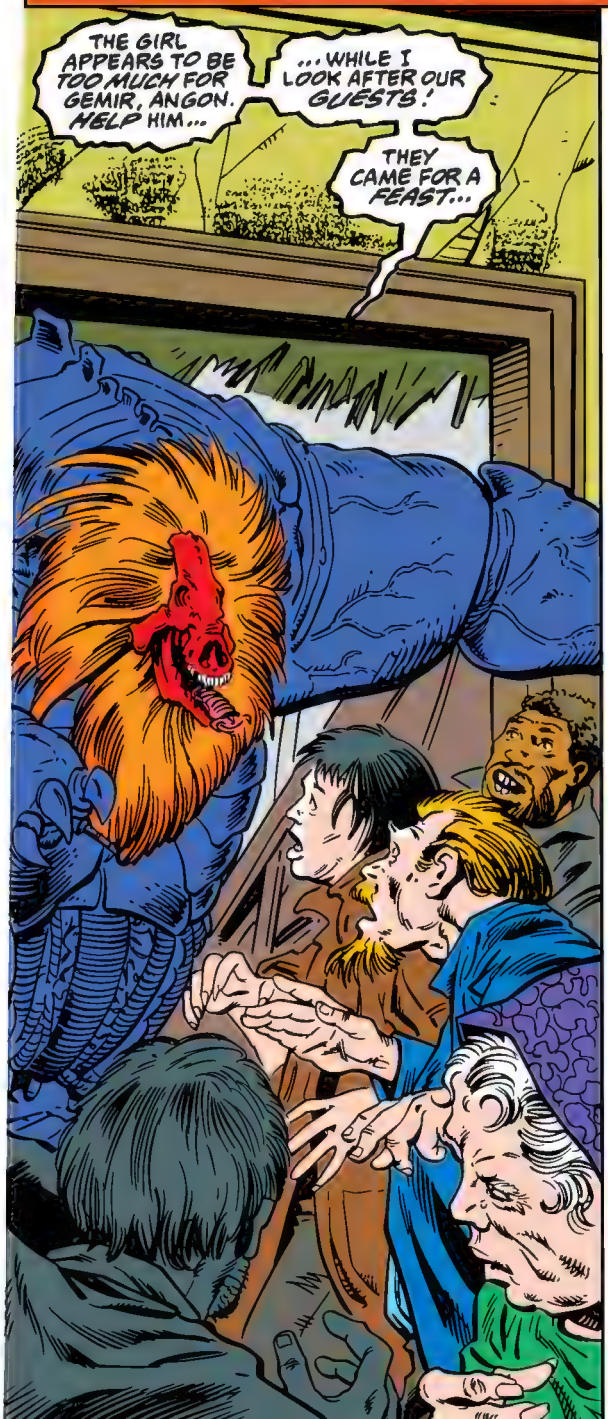
WHAT-?
SHE-!
WHERE-?
HOW!?
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
FIX MY LEG AND FIND ME SOME CLOTHES, FELLAS!
FIRST ROUND'S ON ME!
FIRST ROUND'S NOT OVER, BONE-BOYS!
SKRAK-KOOM!
SURE--THERE'S MORE OF YOU, AND YOU'RE BIGGER, AND MAYBE A LITTLE TOUGHER...
...BUT I'LL STOP YOU BUGS ALL BY MYSEL--

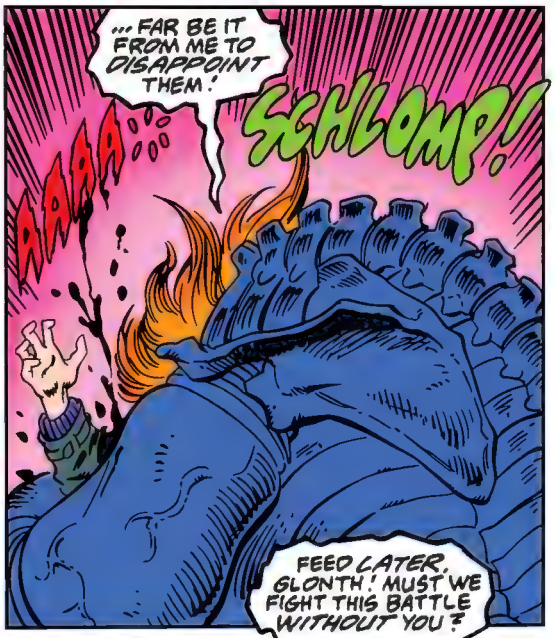
I'M HERE TO HELP YOU, SUPERMAN!

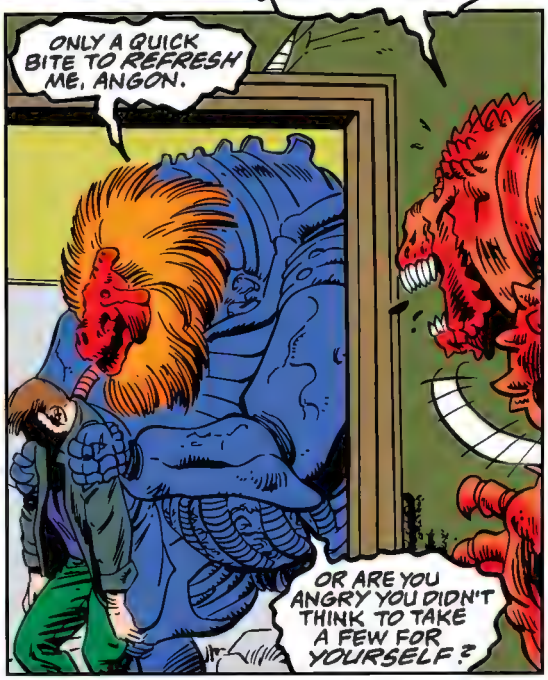
ON THE OTHER HAND-- HELP IS GOOD!
THE FEMALE WILL BE OF NO AID TO YOU, BOY, ONCE PRITOR--
TANGLE WITH ME, MONSTER--
--AND YOU'RE IN FOR QUITE A SHOCK!
ZZAK
SMOOTH MOVE, SPARKY!
YOU SET HIM UP...

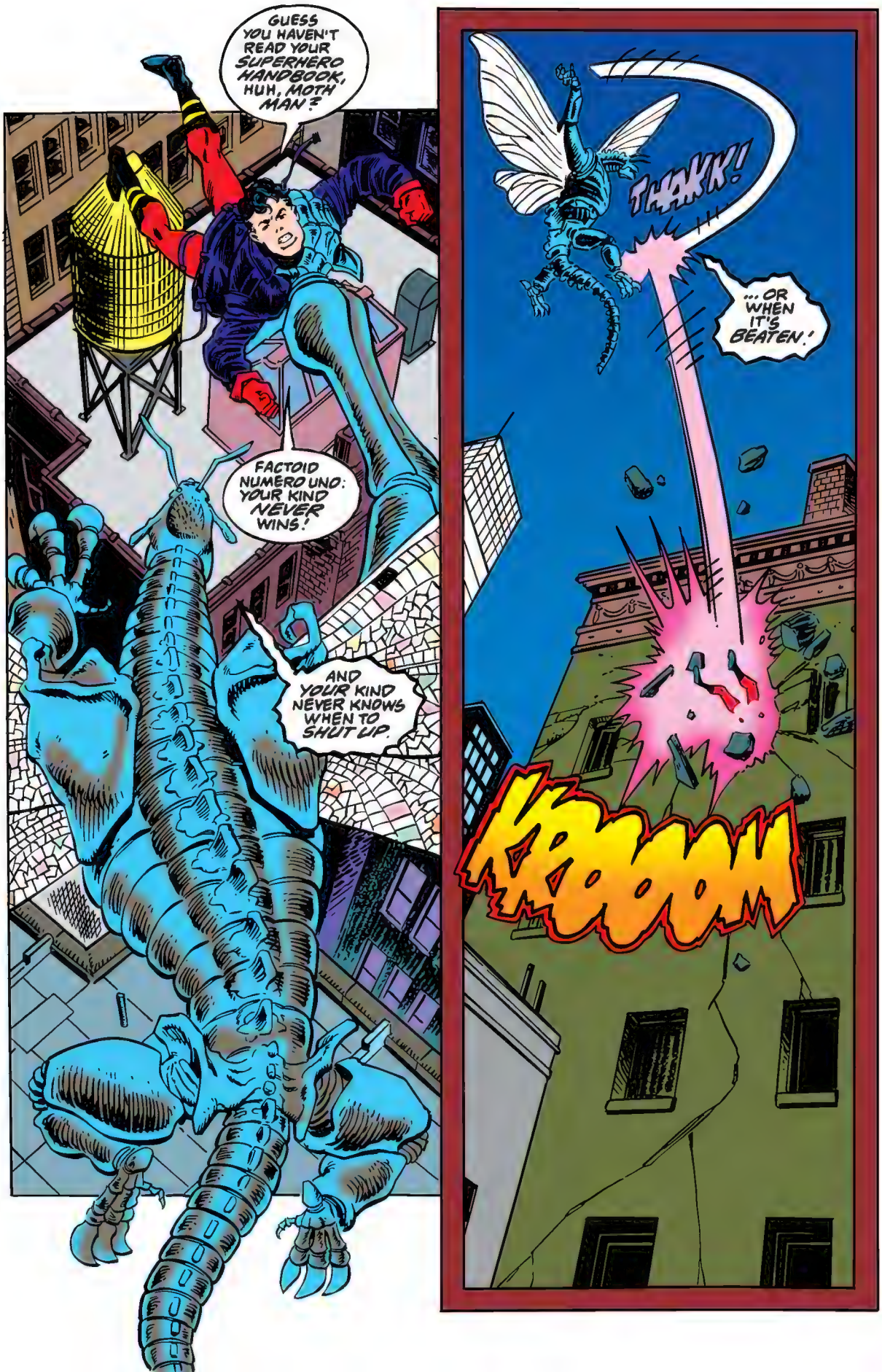
...I'LL TAKE HIM OUT!
KA-KRAKSHH!
WAY OUT!


YAARRR!
YOU SEEM FAMILIAR, MONSTER!
DO YOU KNOW ME?
MAYBE I CAN JOLT YOUR MEMORY!
ZZATT!


THE GIRL APPEARS TO BE TOO MUCH FOR GEMIR, ANGON. HELP HIM...
...WHILE I LOOK AFTER OUR GUESTS!
THEY CAME FOR A FEAST...

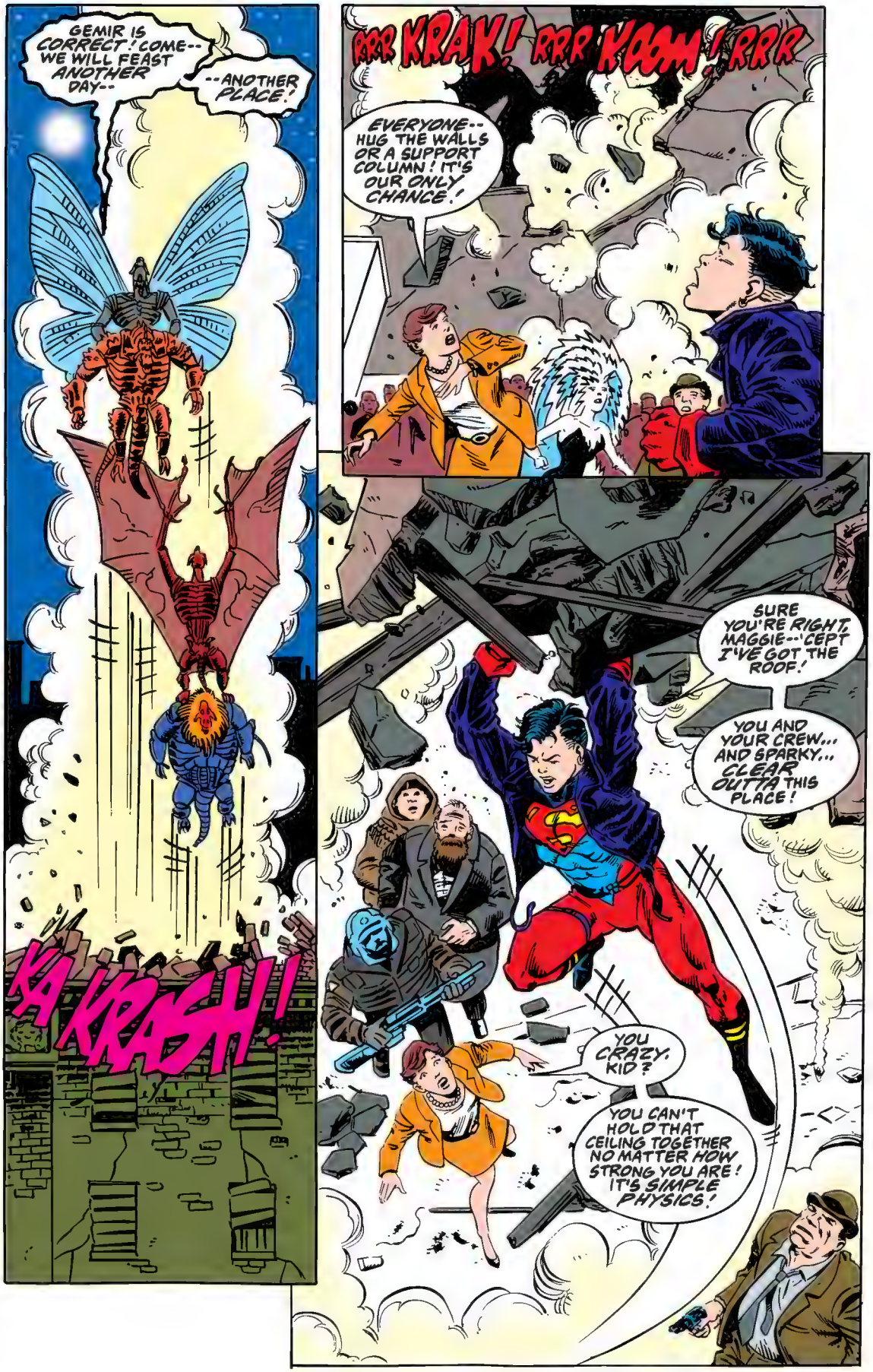

...FAR BE IT FROM ME TO DISAPPOINT THEM!
SCHLOMP!
AAAA...
FEED LATER, GLONTH! MUST WE FIGHT THIS BATTLE WITHOUT YOU?


ONLY A QUICK BITE TO REFRESH ME, ANGON.
OR ARE YOU ANGRY YOU DIDN'T THINK TO TAKE A FEW FOR YOURSELF?


GUESS YOU HAVEN'T READ YOUR SUPERHERO HANDBOOK, HUH, MOTH MAN?
FACTOID NUMERO UNO: YOUR KIND NEVER WINS!
AND YOUR KIND NEVER KNOWS WHEN TO SHUT UP.
THAK!
...OR WHEN IT'S BEATEN!
KABOOM

...DON'T YOU GUYS KNOW WHEN YOU'RE BEAT?
YOU'RE UP AGAINST SUPERMAN AND...
...HMMM...
ELEKTRA? SHOCK? LADY LIGHTNI--
KRROOOOM!
--NUNGH!?
WHOA-- SORRY, SPARKY! BUT, HEY-- IF ANYONE HAD TO BREAK MY FALL...
C'MON-- CAN'T YOU FEEL THE CHEMISTRY?
LUCKY I SEEM ABLE TO INSTINCTIVELY DAMPEN MY POWER-- OR YOU'D FEEL A LOT MORE THAN THAT!
THOK!
BAH!

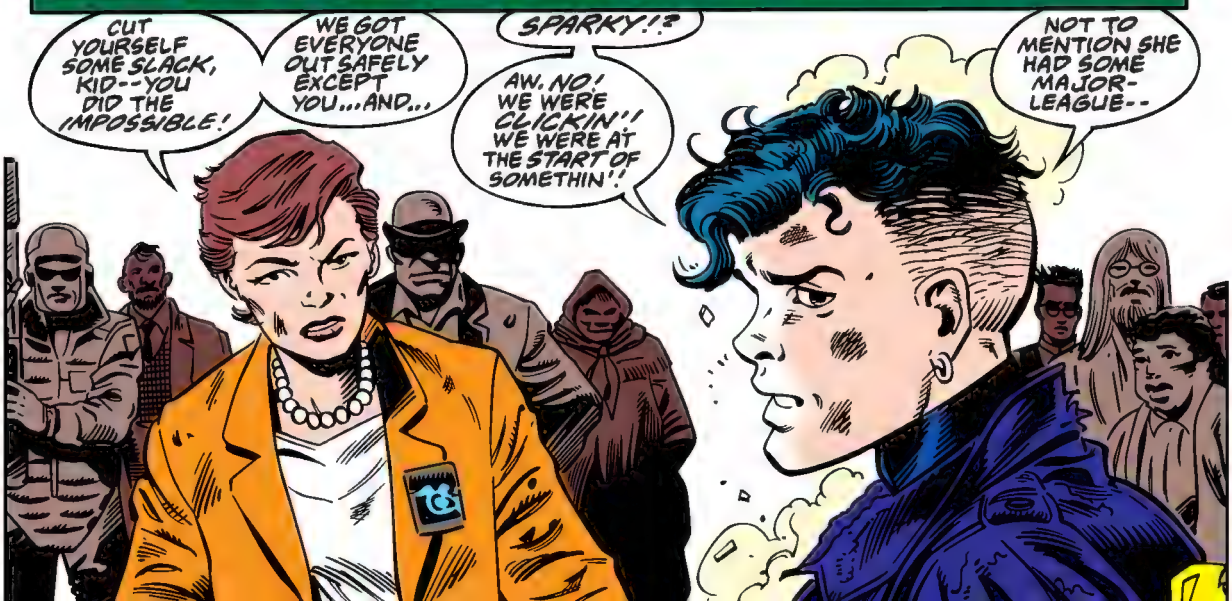
PANG!
KCHOW!
KCHOW!
TOK
POK
THE BOY WILL FEEL NOTHING WHEN I AM DONE WITH--
--WHAT?!
THE PARTY'S OVER, BUG! YOU AND YOUR PALS ARE UNDER ARREST! WILL YOU COME QUIETLY OR--!
WHAT AM I SAYING?
BLAST 'EM, BOYS! AIM HIGH, MIND THE CIVILIANS, AND BLOW THEIR BONY HIDES TO HELL!
KCHOW
KCHOW
KCHOW
BRAMM
AX-235
SCU
WE CAN TAKE THEM, GEMIR! WE CAN DESTROY THEM ALL!
I WILL NOT GIVE UP THE FEAST!
ARE YOU A GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT AS WELL, GLONTH?
IF THEY DESTROY EVEN ONE OF US, ALL WE'VE WORKED FOR IS LOST!


GEMIR IS CORRECT! COME-- WE WILL FEAST ANOTHER DAY--
--ANOTHER PLACE!
KA KRASH!
RRR KRAK! RRR KOOM! RRR
EVERYONE-- HUG THE WALLS OR A SUPPORT COLUMN! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!
SURE YOU'RE RIGHT, MAGGIE--'CEPT I'VE GOT THE ROOF!
YOU AND YOUR CREW... AND SPARKY... CLEAR OUTTA THIS PLACE!
YOU CRAZY KID?
YOU CAN'T HOLD THAT CEILING TOGETHER NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOU ARE! IT'S SIMPLE PHYSICS!

GREAT PEP-TALK THERE, MAGSTER! NEXT YOU'LL BE TELLIN' ME I CAN'T FLY!
LISTEN-- I'LL DO MY JOB...
"...YOU DO YOURS!"
MOVE IT! DOUBLE-TIME!
HUT! HUT! HUT!
STRAIGHT THROUGH-- CLEAR OF THE BUILDING!
THIS THING SHOULDN'T EVEN BE STANDING!
EVERYONE OUT?
THINK SO, MAGGIE.
THAT 'LECTRIC LADY IS CHECKIN' FOR STRAGGLERS, AN' THEN THERE'S...
RRRR

KRRUUMMMBBLL

TURPIN--GET ON THE HORN! WE NEED A COUPLE OF CRANES!
KEEP YER PANTYHOSE ON, MAGGIE! IT AIN'T OVER TILL IT'S OVER...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE GIRL, BUT IF OUR SUPERMAN'S INVULNERABILITY KICKED OUT AGAIN...
"...AN' IT AIN'T OVER!"
KOFF! KAFF!
KAFF!
Y'KNOW, I WAS HOLDIN' UP THAT CEILIN' JUST FINE...
...THEN THE WALLS CAVED!

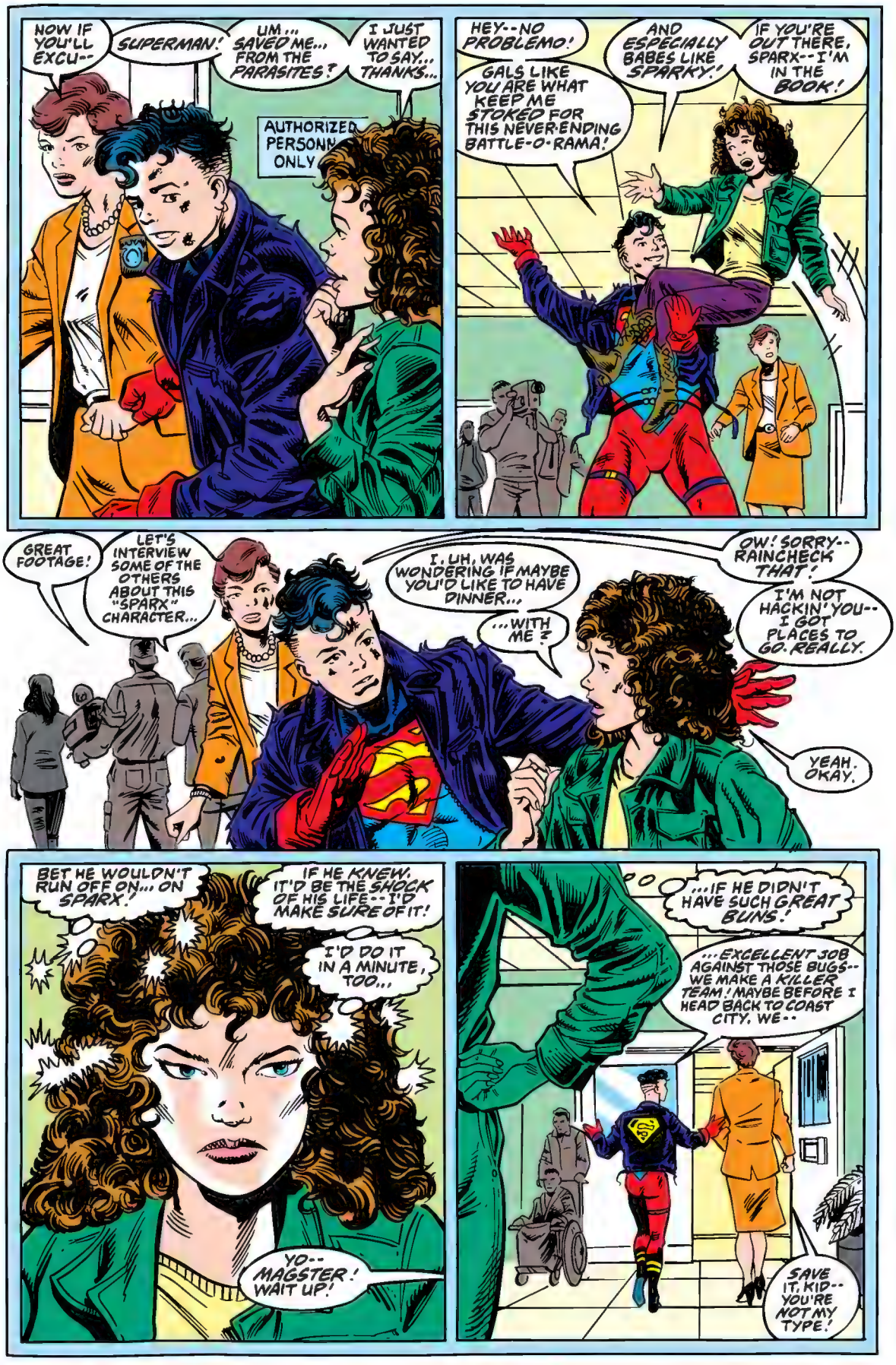

CUT YOURSELF SOME SLACK, KID--YOU DID THE IMPOSSIBLE!
WE GOT EVERYONE OUT SAFELY EXCEPT YOU...AND...
SPARKY!?
AW, NO! WE WERE CLICKIN'! WE WERE AT THE START OF SOMETHIN'!
NOT TO MENTION SHE HAD SOME MAJOR-LEAGUE--

KKOOOM!
WORRIED ABOUT ME, SUPERMAN?
SOMEONE WHO CAN BECOMING A LIVING LIGHTNING BOLT!
--POWERS! THAT'S WHAT I WAS GONNA SAY-- MAJOR-LEAGUE POWERS!
HAD ME GOIN' THERE, SPARKY! I MEAN-- YOU WERE EXCELLENT AGAINST THOSE BUGS, AND WE'RE A KILLER TEAM, SO...
...WELL, Y'KNOW-- I'M SUPER, YOU'RE HOT--
MAYBE TOO HOT.
BUT YOU CAN'T START A FIRE...
...WITHOUT SPARX!
BZZZZZZZ
ZZAAK
OH, YEAH MOST DEFINITELY HOT!
BOYS WILL BE BOYS, I GUESS.
IF YOU'RE DONE HERE, SUPERMAN, WE COULD USE HELP GETTING ALL THESE PEOPLE IN FOR A CHECKUP AT...

"...METROPOLIS GENERAL."
THAT'S EVERYTHING.
EMERGEN
STICK AROUND TOO LONG, HARRY, AND PEOPLE MIGHT NOTICE HOW QUICK YOU'RE HEALIN' UP.
'COURSE, A BROKEN LEG'S NOT NOTHIN'--IT'LL TAKE FIVE OR SIX DAYS...
...BUT WITH THE LOCALS WANTIN' TO ASK ALL ABOUT ME IN MY BIRTHDAY SUIT, AND THE PARASITES AND D.C.'S VANISHING...
...BEST TO LEAVE QUIETLY.
WITH ALL THE POLICE THAT JUST SHOWED UP HERE, GUESS THAT MEANS THE WINDOW.
NOT TOO FAR DOWN--SHOULDN'T BREAK MY OTHER LEG.
HOPE YOU'RE DOIN' OKAY, D.C..
WISH I COULD SAY GOOD-B--
KKKRRRR-
RAKK!
--YIIII!
D.C.?!

THAT YOU, D.C.?
LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU!
I CAN'T CHANGE BACK, UNCLE HARRY-- CAN'T CHANGE BACK AT ALL!
EASY, GIRL-- YOU CAME TO THE RIGHT PLACE!
TAKE A DEEP BREATH... RELAX ...LET THE POWER FALL INTO YOU...
I DON'T--
SHUSH!
LET IT SINK DEEPER... DEEPER...
WHAT'D I TELL YOU? CAN O'CORN!
YOUR CLOTHES TRANSFORM WITH YOU, HUH? SOME PEOPLE GOT ALL THE LUCK!
I'M BACK?
I'M BACK! OH, THANK YOU, UNCLE HARRY!
DID YOU SEE? I WAS FLYING!
EVERYTHING WAS IN SUPER-SHARP FOCUS AND I LOOKED DOWN AND SAW SUPERMAN AND--
CALM DOWN, D.C.--YOU'RE SPARKIN' LIKE A LIVE WIRE!
GOTTA CONTROL THAT POWER. WHEN WE GET HOME I'LL--
I'M NOT GOING HOME, UNCLE HARRY. NOT YET.
NOT WHILE THOSE PARASITES ARE STILL OUT THERE, AT LEAST.
CAN'T SAY I'M SURPRISED. FACT IS, WISH I COULD HELP. BUT MY LEG...
WELL, I'LL JUST GO BACK AND BREAK THE NEWS THAT THERE'S A REAL SUPERHERO IN THE FAMILY NOW.
PROB'LY BEST YOU'RE NOT THERE FOR THAT.

"LISTEN, D.C.--YOU GET IN TROUBLE YOU LOOK UP FAMILY. US SPECIAL FORCES ARE ALL OVER!
"AND BE CAREFUL.
"I LOVE YOU LOTS, KID."
HELPED UNCLE HARRY SNEAK OUT, AND HE GAVE ME SOME MONEY...
...I'M ON MY OWN, NOW! KINDA SCARY.
I MEAN, I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO START LOOKING FOR THOSE--
--PARASITES TRIED TO CHOW DOWN ON SOME CITIZENS, BUT THEY BIT OFF MORE THAN THEY COULD CHEW!
'COURSE, IT WASN'T A SOLO GIG. I HELD UP MY END--MEANIN' THE ROOF--BUT THE INSPECTOR AND HER POSSE SAVED EVERYONE!
THEN THERE WAS THIS MAJORLY MYSTERIOUS META-BABE WHO BOLTED! IF SHE'S WATCHING, MY NUMBER'S--
AIDS
--LISTED, I'M SURE.
TO FINISH THIS UP--WE BELIEVE THERE WERE ONLY THREE DEATHS. EVERYONE EVACUATED IS IN FINE CONDITION...
...AND THE MAYOR IS SPONSORING A SPECIAL DINNER FOR ALL OF THEM.
OBVIOUSLY, WE HAVE THEM ON THE RUN, STEVE.
AND THE PARASITES?


NOW IF YOU'LL EXCU--
SUPERMAN!
UM... SAVED ME... FROM THE PARASITES?
I JUST WANTED TO SAY... THANKS...
AUTHORIZED PERSONN ONLY
HEY--NO PROBLEMO!
GALS LIKE YOU ARE WHAT KEEP ME STOKED FOR THIS NEVER-ENDING BATTLE-O-RAMA!
AND ESPECIALLY BABES LIKE SPARKY!
IF YOU'RE OUT THERE, SPARX--I'M IN THE BOOK!
GREAT FOOTAGE!
LET'S INTERVIEW SOME OF THE OTHERS ABOUT THIS "SPARX" CHARACTER...
I, UH, WAS WONDERING IF MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE DINNER...
...WITH ME?
OW! SORRY--RAINCHECK THAT!
I'M NOT HACKIN' YOU--I GOT PLACES TO GO. REALLY.
YEAH. OKAY.
BET HE WOULDN'T RUN OFF ON... ON SPARX!
IF HE KNEW, IT'D BE THE SHOCK OF HIS LIFE--I'D MAKE SURE OF IT!
I'D DO IT IN A MINUTE, TOO...
YO--MAGSTER! WAIT UP!
...IF HE DIDN'T HAVE SUCH GREAT BUNS!
...EXCELLENT JOB AGAINST THOSE BUGS--WE MAKE A KILLER TEAM! MAYBE BEFORE I HEAD BACK TO COAST CITY, WE--
SAVE IT, KID--YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE!

ELSEWHERE.
...COULD STILL BE FEASTING IF YOU HAD DECIDED TO FIGHT, PRITOR! THE HUMANS--
...ARE A PROUD BREED, GLONTH! DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE HOW DETERMINED THAT MAKES THEM!
TO THEM WE ARE PARASITES... PREDATORS... SOMETHING TO BE ELIMINATED!
WE CANNOT ALLOW THAT! TOO MUCH IS AT STAKE TO THINK MERELY OF OUR BELLIES...
...THERE IS ALSO THE OFFSPRING...
...THE TAKER!
EACH DAY IT GROWS LARGER--NOURISHED BY THE PRECIOUS JUICES WE COLLECT!
SOON... SOON OUR PURPOSE SHALL REACH ITS CULMINATION...
...AND ON THAT DAY THE TAKER SHALL WALK THE EARTH--AND MAKE THE PLANET TREMBLE!

WHAT WAS THAT?

FELT LIKE THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE JUST SHUDDERED!

BLAST OFF!

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G-8376

I FELT IT TOO. SUPERBOY CALLED THIS COMPLEX ENGINE CITY...

...AND IT FELT LIKE A GIANT ENGINE JUST SWITCHED ON.

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SUPERMAN Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

DOES THAT MEAN WHAT I THINK IT MEANS?

IT CAN'T MEAN ANYTHING GOOD. COME ON, WE'D BETTER HURRY!

MAN, I HOPE SUPERBOY SAVED METROPOLIS!

ME TOO. BUT IF WE DON'T SUCCEED IN TAKING OUT THIS COMPLEX'S POWER STATION, IT WON'T REALLY MATTER.

SO FIRST WE TRASH THE POWER STATION.

THEN WE CONFRONT THE CYBORG AND HIS SIDEKICK, MONGUL!

OR MAYBE--

"...WE'LL BE FORCED TO TAKE OUT MONGUL FIRST."

WELCOME TO ENGINE CITY, SUPERMAN...IF YOU TRULY ARE THE REAL SUPERMAN! I AM HERE TO DESTROY YOUR ADOPTED WORLD!

ENGINE CITY IS A GIANT ROCKET ENGINE.

OTHERS, PLACED AROUND THE PLANET, WOULD HAVE GIVEN YOUR WORLD STABILITY AS IT BLASTED INTO SPACE AS MY NEW WAR WORLD.

BUT YOUR SUPERBOY HAS THWARTED THE PLACEMENT OF OUR SECOND ENGINE IN METROPOLIS.

HE DID IT!

SO I HAVE GIVEN THE ORDER TO FIRE THIS SINGLE ROCKET ENGINE, SENDING YOUR EARTH SPINNING OUT OF ORBIT...

...WHERE COMPETING FORCES WILL SHATTER IT INTO A MILLION PIECES.

I'VE WATCHED YOUR ACTIONS ON OUR VIEWSCREENS, SUPERMAN. YOU NO LONGER HAVE THE POWER TO WITHSTAND ME!

FIRST I WILL DESTROY YOU. AND THEN I WILL DESTROY YOUR ADOPTED WORLD.

EARTH IS DOOMED UNLESS WE CAN STOP THE BLAST!

YOU WERE RIGHT. GO TO THE ENGINE ROOM, MAN OF STEEL. DESTROY THE ROCKET ENGINE!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF MONGUL.

YOU SAVED MY LIFE ONCE.

I HAD TO MAKE THAT LIFE COUNT FOR SOMETHING!

THE HIGH STEEL WORKER! I REMEMBER YOU!

THE NAME'S JOHN HENRY IRONS.

B-BOW

BOW

IRONS, MAYBE. BUT STRONG AS STEEL.

BOW

BOW

GOOD LUCK, STEEL!

FIRE AWAY, SUPERMAN! INDULGE YOURSELF!

AS YOU CAN SEE, YOUR BLASTS DO NOT AFFECT ME.

I WILL LET THE ONE YOU CALL STEEL GO... FOR NOW, SUPERMAN...

...FOR THERE IS NOTHING HE CAN DO TO STOP THE FORCES I HAVE SET INTO MOTION.

KNOW THAT BEFORE I DESTROY HIM, I WILL INDULGE IN THE PLEASURE...

...OF DESTROYING YOU!

MARTHA? JONATHAN? I'M AT THE AIRPORT. NO, I'M STILL TRYING TO GET TO CALIFORNIA.

Phone

NO, THERE ARE NO FLIGHTS OUT. THEY'VE CLOSED DOWN ALL FLIGHTS HEADING WEST...

...BECAUSE OF GARBAGE IN THE AIR FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF COAST CITY.

BUT I'M NOT GIVING UP. I HAVE TO GO THERE. I... I THINK CLARK IS REALLY BACK THIS TIME.

I KNOW, SWEETIE. I SAW THE TV. I... THINK SO TOO. I JUST HOPE WE DON'T LOSE HIM ALL OVER AGAIN.

HEY, THERE YOU ARE.

JEB FRIEDMAN'S VOICE, OH, LORD. I LET HIM KISS ME LAST NIGHT. AND NOW... CLARK'S BACK.

HEARD ABOUT THE BROUHAHA HERE. I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

UH... HI, JEB!

WHAT IS IT, BABE? AREN'T YOU HAPPY TO SEE ME?

ONCE AGAIN I AM WIRED INTO THE COMPUTER BANKS OF ENGINE CITY.

SUPERBOY'S VICTORY MUST HAVE SHAKEN MONGUL'S FAITH IN MY ABILITY TO TURN THIS PLANET INTO A NEW WAR WORLD...

...FOR MONGUL HAS SECRETLY INITIATED THE FIRING SEQUENCE THAT WILL SEND THE EARTH SPINNING OUT OF ORBIT.

THROUGH THE HEAT FLUCTUATIONS IN THE CITY'S LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM, I CAN TRACK THE INVADERS.

AN INVISIBLE STRANGER RACES LOST THROUGH THE CORRIDORS BELOW, WHILE SUPERMAN FIGHTS MONGUL.

THE MAN CALLED STEEL RUSHES TOWARD THE ENGINE ROOM, BUT THERE IS NO WAY HE ALONE CAN STOP THE BLAST.

I CANNOT LET THAT FOOL MONGUL DESTROY ALL I'VE WORKED FOR.

I WILL LEAD SUPERMAN'S INVISIBLE ALLY TO HIM. TOGETHER THEY WILL DEFEAT MONGUL.

MONGUL HAS DESTROYED THE ROCKET'S FAILSAFE MECHANISMS.

"I CANNOT DISRUPT THE FIRING PROCESS FROM HERE BUT MUST TRAVEL AS ENERGY...

"...TO THE ENGINE ROOM ITSELF!"

HOLY COW! WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO?

I MAY BE A BALLISTICS EXPERT, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN AN ENGINE LIKE THIS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT POWERS IT. I CAN'T BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND HOW IT WORKS!

HOW CAN I HOPE TO STOP IT FROM IGNITING?

YOU AND THE OTHERS ASSUMED I POSSESS A SINGLE BODY, MAN OF STEEL.

THAT IS WHAT I WANTED YOU TO THINK!

BUT YOU WOULD BE WRONG!

WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S BIG! AND THE BIGGER THEY ARE...

...THE HARDER THEY FALL!

I HOPE!

I HURLED HIM OFF THE CATWALK! WHERE DID HE GO?

I AM HERE, STEEL MAN! THOUGH I APPEAR TO BE A CREATURE OF PIPES, CIRCUITS AND WIRES...

...I AM, IN REALITY, A BEING OF PUREST ENERGY.

I TRAVEL WHERE I CHOOSE!

KLANG!

AND WHATEVER MECHANICAL OBJECT I CHOOSE TO ANIMATE BECOMES MY BODY!

ANIMATE? YOU'RE THE CYBORG?

IMPRESSIVE, AREN'T I?

THOOMB! THOOMB! THOOMB!

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.

I NEED INFORMATION. I HAVE TO KEEP THIS MONSTER TALKING TILL I FIND OUT WHAT I NEED TO KNOW...

...AND STAY ALIVE LONG ENOUGH TO KEEP THE ENGINE FROM FIRING! MAYBE IF I ANGER HIM...?

I KNOW YOU PLAN TO DESTROY MY ENGINE, BUT I WILL NOT LET THAT HAPPEN.

THOOMB! THOOMB! THOOMB!

YEAH, CIRCUIT BRAIN? YOU AND WHAT ARMY?

I'M GOING TO SMASH YOUR ERECTOR SET AND YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP ME!

NOT SO FAST, MAN OF STEEL!

THAT ENGINE IS POWERED BY A FUSION PROCESS TOO COMPLICATED FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND.

KRYPTONITE FISSION WILL JUMP-START THE FUSION REACTOR VIA THE GIANT ENGINE BELOW YOU!

THE CONTROLLED FUSION WILL POWER THE FORCE FIELDS THAT WILL KEEP YOUR EARTH FROM TEARING APART...

... AND PROVIDE THE THRUST THAT WILL CARRY THE EARTH INTO SPACE AS A NEW SATELLITE UNDER MY COMMAND.

FACE IT, HUMAN, I WILL PREVAIL--FOR THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME!

YOU ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH... NOR WISE ENOUGH ...TO BE A TRUE MAN OF STEEL!

NO PLANES ARE GOING ANYWHERE NEAR COAST CITY.

HOW AM I GOING TO GET THERE. CLARK MIGHT NEED ME.

METROPORT DINER

MAYBE IT'S JUST AS WELL YOU CAN'T GET THERE, LOIS.

YOU KNOW A WOMAN DOESN'T HAVE ANY BUSINESS PUTTING HER NECK ON THE LINE LIKE THAT.

MAYBE IF I FLY TO MONTREAL AND TAKE AIR CANADA TO PRINCE GEORGE, THEN RENT A CAR...

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN FLAT ON THE FLOOR RUBBING MY JAW AFTER THAT CRACK!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?

UH-HUH!

SHE'S DEEP IN PLOTTING HOW TO GET HER WAY. THAT'S IT. THAT'S WHY SHE HARDLY HEARD ME.

ISN'T IT...? SHE DIDN'T TRUST THE CYBORG.

BUT IF SUPERMAN IS REALLY BACK LIKE SHE SAID, HE'LL HAVE THAT MESS WRAPPED UP BEFORE SHE CAN GET THERE ANYWAY!

WHY'S SHE SO CRAZY TO GET TO CALIFORNIA NOW?

SUPERMAN... THAT'S IT! I'M NOT COMPETING AGAINST KENT! I'M COMPETING AGAINST--!

LOIS, DID THAT POOR FOOL CLARK KENT EVER REALIZE YOU WERE REALLY IN LOVE WITH SUPERMAN?

WHILE ELSEWHERE...

HOME AT LAST... GOOD THING THE OTHER GREEN LANTERNS LET ME RECHARGE MY POWER RING.

WHAT'S THAT--? MY GOD! THAT MONSTROUS CONSTRUCT DOWN THERE USED TO BE--

*G.L. GOES "DOWN THERE" IN GREEN LANTERN #46 ON SALE NEXT WEEK!

"--COAST CITY!"

MONGUL HAS ME IN... BEAR HUG! ANOTHER RIB CRACKED... I THINK! CAN'T BREATHE...

JUST TOYING WITH ME...SO FAR! HE HAS... POWER TO CRUSH ME!

WHILE I'M VIRTUALLY... POWERLESS EXCEPT FOR...

...THE WEAPONS I'VE FOUND!

GRENADE SHOULD KNOCK HIM BACK...

BADOOM

...BUY ME... SPACE TO BREATHE!

RIBS... BROKEN! I--

AN EXCELLENT TRICK, SUPERMAN! THE LAST YOU WILL EVER EMPLOY--

I STRUCK THIN AIR... AND IT FELT HARD AS STEEL! WHAT CAN THIS MEAN?

EITHER SUPERMAN HAS LEARNED TO PROJECT INVISIBLE FORCE FIELDS...

WHAM!

...OR HE HAS AN INVISIBLE ALLY!

AND NOW HIS ALLY IS TAKING THE OFFENSIVE!

KPOW!

INVISIBLE NOW... BUT IT WON'T BE FOR LONG!

THE MACHINE OIL THAT FLOWS THOUGH THESE PIPES IS STICKY AND VISCOUS...

...AND SHOULD REVEAL THE SHAPE OF MY ADVERSARY!

KWOOSH

WHAT--? CAN'T SEE!

A WOMAN... SMALL AND SLIGHT...

...AND WITHOUT THE POWER TO SEE MY MOVEMENTS! EXCELLENT!

WHAK!!

NO!

YES!

KWHAM!

AND OVER ENGINE CITY...

BELOW IS THE GIANT MECHANISM THAT HAS GROWN TO TAKE THE PLACE OF COAST CITY.

EVEN NOW I FEEL THE VIBRATIONS AS THE ENGINE LURCHES TO LIFE!

I DO NOT KNOW WHAT FURTHER EVIL THE CYBORG HAS PLANNED...

...BUT SUPERMAN AND THE MAN OF STEEL ARE WITHIN, ATTEMPTING TO STOP THE DESTRUCTION.

AND I MUST DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO AID THEM!

KRASH

THE CYBORG'S MACHINE-CREATURE HAS SHIFTED ITS SHAPE AGAIN!

AND EVERY TIME IT DOES, IT SEEMS TO GAIN MORE POWER!

THE CREATURE ASSURES ME I'M NOT STRONG OR SMART ENOUGH TO TRULY BE A MAN OF STEEL!

HE MAY BE RIGHT ABOUT THE STRENGTH!

BUT HE HAS BRAINS ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US.

AND IF I KEEP HIM TALKING, HE JUST MIGHT OUTSMART HIMSELF...

...AND TELL ME HOW TO STOP THE ENGINE.

KHANG!

YOU SAY YOU USE A FUSION PROCESS.

BUT HERE ON EARTH, WE USE MORE ENERGY INITIATING THE FUSION PROCESS.

AH, BUT EARTH IS PRIMITIVE, HUMAN TECHNOLOGY IS NOT YET CAPABLE OF CREATING...

...THE KINDS OF MAGNETIC FIELDS NEEDED TO FACILITATE FUSION ON THIS SCALE..

--MAGNETIC FIELDS CREATED BY THE GIANT TRANSFORMER ENGINE THAT YOU SEE BEFORE YOU.

FACE IT, STEEL...

...YOU CANNOT WIN!

I CAN'T DESTROY THE FUSION REACTOR, BUT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO INTERRUPT THE CREATION OF THE MAGNETIC FIELDS...

...BY DESTROYING THE TRANSFORMER ENGINE THAT CREATES THE FIELDS WITHIN THE FUSION REACTOR.

IF I UNDERSTAND HIM...

...HE'S GOING TO HELP ME SHUT THINGS DOWN!

HEADLINE

MOM KNEW WHAT SHE WAS DOING WHEN SHE NAMED ME AFTER JOHN HENRY, THE STEEL DRIVIN' MAN.

HE FOUGHT THE STEEL DRILL AND HE BEAT IT! IT KILLED HIM BUT HE BEAT IT!

I'LL DIE, TOO! THINK I WAS MEANT... TO DIE THIS WAY!

FLY INTO THE GEARS...

...GRIND THEM TO A HALT...

...DISRUPT THE MAGNETIC FIELDS WITHIN THE FUSION REACTOR!

STOP THE MACHINE...SAVED THE WORLD! GRINDING PAIN!!

DOESN'T MATTER! CRUSHED TO GRIT. GOOD. CYBORG'S MECHANICAL BODY... ADDS BULK...

...MORE STEEL... MORE GRIT IN THE GEARS...

"...TO GRIND THIS ENGINE... TO A SCREAMING HALT.'"

KOOOM

PA-

BLAM!

CURSED GNAT--

--HE'S DESTROYING THE ENGINE! IN MY CYBORG BODY... I'M SAFE FOR NOW!

AND MY SENSORS CONFIRM THAT, AGAINST ALL ODDS, THE MAN CALLED STEEL HAS SUCCEEDED IN THWARTING MONGUL'S PLAN!

THE EARTH WILL NO LONGER SPIN OUT OF ORBIT.

BUT UNFORTUNATELY FOR STEEL, HIS ACTIONS HAVE NOT THWARTED ME!

ENGINE CITY'S KRYPTONITE POWER SOURCE IS STILL IN TACT!

AND I CAN FEEL THAT WHILE IT APPEARS MONGUL HAS THINGS WELL IN HAND--

--HE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT THE GREEN LANTERN IS NEARING.

THOUGH I COULD PREVENT HIS ACCESS TO THE ENGINE--

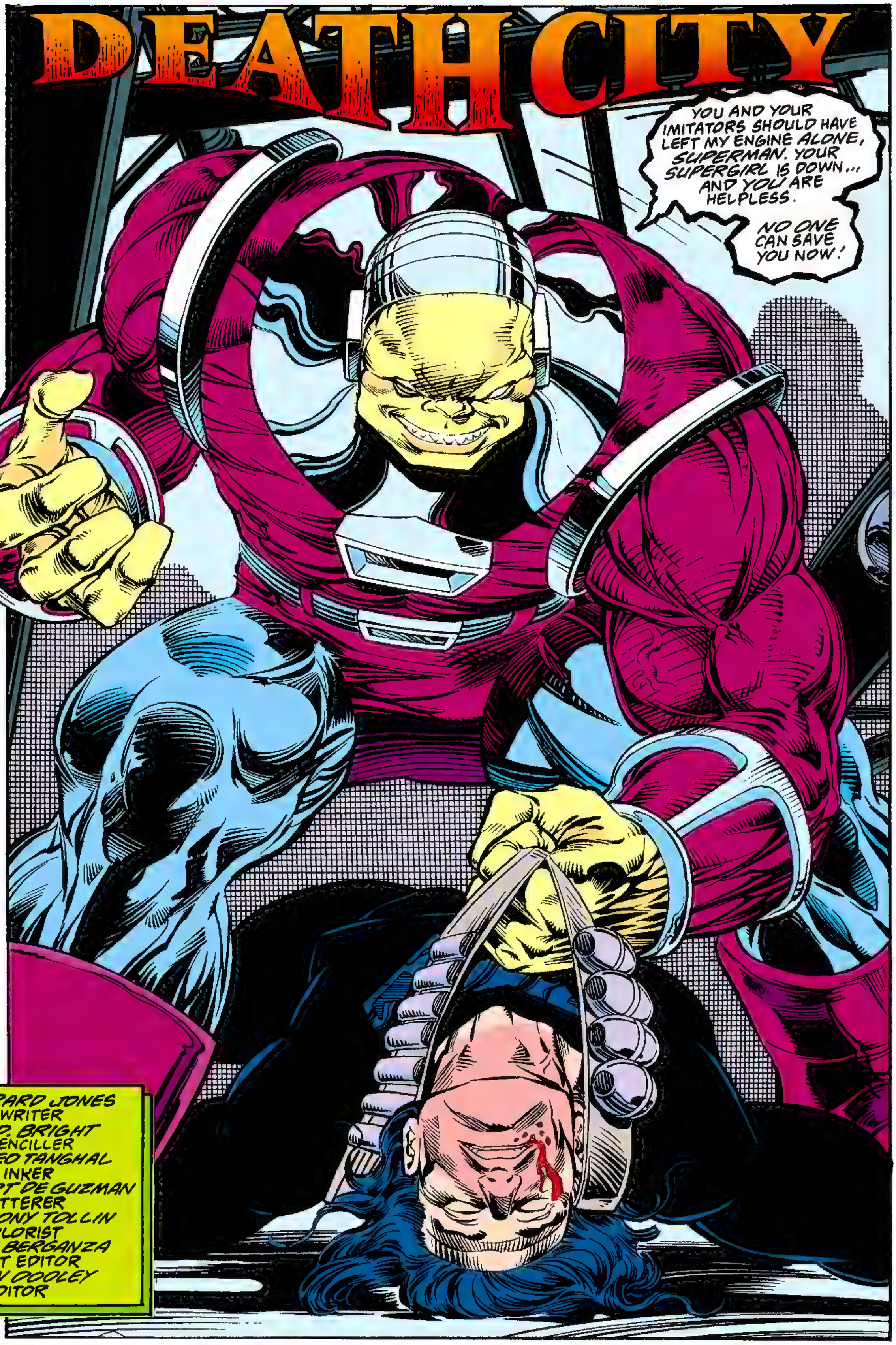
-- I'LL ALLOW THE LANTERN TO SNUFF MONGUL FOR HIS INSUBORDINATION--

--LEAVING, THE DEATH OF SUPERMAN TO BE ADMINISTERED BY MY HANDS!

CONTINUED IN GREEN LANTERN #46 AND SUPERMAN #82

ON SALE IN ONE WEEK!

DEATH CITY


YOU AND YOUR IMITATORS SHOULD HAVE LEFT MY ENGINE ALONE, SUPERMAN. YOUR SUPERGIRL IS DOWN... AND YOU ARE HELPLESS.
NO ONE CAN SAVE YOU NOW!

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M.D. BRIGHT
PENCILLER
ROMEO TANGHAL
INKER
ALBERT DE GUZMAN
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COAST CITY.

IT WAS MY HOME ONCE. MY FRIENDS' HOME.

NOW IT'S NOTHING. AN ENGINE BUILT ON RUBBLE. BUILT ON THE CORPSES OF PEOPLE I KNEW.

AND ONE OF THOSE CORPSES--MIGHT BE CAROL'S.

IF THEY THINK THEIR MISSLES CAN KEEP ME OUT...

...THEY'RE WRONG.

CHA WHOOM

NOTHING'S KEEPING ME OUT.

BAM BOOM

NOTHING'S KEEPING ME FROM FINDING THE MONSTER WHO DID THIS.

NOTHING'S KEEPING MY HANDS FROM HIS THROAT.

buh-CLAM

HE DESTROYED THE ROBOTIC FORCES AS IF THEY WERE NOTHING! HE'S COMING!

WE HAVE TO STOP HIM! AFTER THE SUPERMEN GOT PAST US, *MONGUL WILL NEVER PARDON ANOTHER--

*ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #504. --KD.

BWOOM

BWOOM

DID YOU DO THIS, ALIEN? DID YOU HELP DO THIS TO MY CITY?

I COULD TEAR YOU APART. NO RING. JUST MY HANDS. I COULD--

NO.

MY RING FOUND HUMAN HEARTBEATS AT THE CORE OF THIS THING. IT FOUND PEOPLE WHO LOOK LIKE SUPERMAN.

AND ONE OF THEM WAS DOWN-- AT THE FEET OF A GIANT.

I PICKED UP THE ALIEN'S WORDS-- TRUMPETING HIS NAME--BRAGGING OF WHAT HE'D DONE.

HAPPY TO HAVE SLAUGHTERED MY CITY, MY PAST, MY FRIENDS.

HE'S THE ONE I WANT. AND NOTHING'S GOING TO KEEP ME FROM HIM.

NOTHING'S GOING TO KEEP ME FROM--

MONGUL!

shhhrrakka - TOOM!

?

bzhwham

MILLIONS OF DEAD. I HEAR THEM SCREAMING.

BEFORE I'D EVEN RETURNED TO EARTH I COULD HEAR THEM IN MY MIND. BEFORE I SAW THE SMOKE BLANKETING CALIFORNIA I KNEW SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED.

TOOOOMMMM

I HEAR THEM SCREAMING--

"AVENGE ME."

"AVENGE ME."

"AVENGE ME."

YOU'RE GOOD AT TEARING UP METAL, WORM--

SHRRAKK

--ARE YOU AFRAID TO ATTACK ME?

TRONG

I WOULDN'T DIRTY MYSELF ON YOU, MONSTER!

EVERY DROP OF HATE IN ME SCREAMS "DO IT."

BLOW HIM APART WITH THE RING!"

BUT THE SUCKER'S YELLOW.

HE'S YELLOW!

AND THAT MEANS MY RING CAN'T HURT HIM--

--EXCEPT BY PUMPING MY HATE INTO 'POWER.'

WHY DON'T YOU BRAG NOW, MONGUL?

TELL ME WHAT A BIG MAN YOU ARE TO KILL MILLIONS OF INNOCENTS!

BA-KOOM

YELL IT OUT WHILE YOU'RE BURIED IN THE WRECKAGE OF YOUR OWN MACHINE!

AHA HA HA HA HA HA HA

YEAH, MONGUL. LAUGH.

LAUGH WITH YOUR DYING BREATH.

AND WHAT WILL SUPERMAN DO WITH HIS DYING BREATH--

HSSSSSS

--AFTER YOU'VE KILLED HIM BY RELEASING THE KRYPTONITE THAT POWERS THIS ENGINE?

SUPERMAN!

A MILLION DEAD SCREAM TO ME. BUT IF ONE CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD AND HAS A CHANCE TO LIVE--

--IF THE WORLD CAN HAVE HIM AGAIN, HOW CAN I RISK--

BWOOM

THINK YOU'VE SAVED SUPERMAN? THE LEADER WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM AS EASILY AS I TAKE CARE OF YOU!

TULUNGG

MY... KNEE.

TORE IT-- COMING THROUGH THE METAL. MY RING KEPT ME ALIVE--BUT EVEN IT COULDN'T BLOCK THIS MONSTER'S POWER.

TOOM TOOM

HE'S COMING. HIS STEPS LIKE THUNDER, MAKING THE CATWALK DANCE. GOTTA STAND--BUT I CAN'T.

GOTTA PUSH--

--GOTTA PUSH THROUGH THE PAIN--

--GOTTA STAND!

WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW, WORM?

WHAT AM I... GONNA DO... MONGUL...?

I'M GONNA KILL YOU!

PUMP MY BODY WITH RING-POWER, MAKE IT A MISSILE, AND--

FLANG

OH, ARE YOU?

SMOOKH

UUNNHHH

FOCUS.

DON'T LOSE IT.

JUST ACT.

USING THE WALKWAY NOW? CLEVER. NO THREAT TO SUPERMAN THERE!

SHPANG

BRUMMM

NO THREAT TO ME, EITHER!

FRAKK

TOOMPH

MY ARM... WHERE? NO ARM. JUST... PAIN.

NO BRAIN. JUST... MUD. ONE SOUND...

HA HA HA HA HA HA

MONGUL. DROWNING... THE VOICES. DROWNING MY PAST.

HOW IT HAD TO BE. BEEN TRYING SO HARD... TO BRING BACK THE PAST. OLD FRIENDS. OLD WAYS. CAROL.

MAYBE... THIS IS WHAT IT BRINGS. IN THE HEART OF DEAD COAST CITY. NO PAST... BUT MONGUL'S LAUGH.

NO FUTURE... BUT MONGUL'S FIST.

NO.

NOT..

NOT...

...YET!

CONGRATULATIONS.

YOU'VE EARNED YOURSELF A FEW MORE SECONDS OF TERROR.

WONG

FEW MORE...SECONDS..

...TO GET AWAY.

STILL HEAR THEM THROUGH THE LAUGHTER. STILL HEAR THEM.

AVENGE...

...ME?

AND WHAT HAVE WE FOUND? THE LITTLE HAMMER DROPPED BY SUPERMAN'S FRIEND?

OH, NOW THE TIDE OF BATTLE TURNS! HA HA HA HA!

THROUGH THE LAUGHTER.

AVENGE ME!

YOU VERMIN DARED WIPE OUT A CITY I CALLED HOME!

BUYING YOURSELF A LOAD OF TROUBLE...

BIG TROUBLE!

HEAVY.

TOO DAMN HEAVY.

MY PAST IS DEAD.

BUT I'M ALIVE.

AND I OWE THE DEAD FOR THAT.

YOUR DAY IS OVER, CRUD! FOR YOU--

--AND WHOEVER THE CREEP IS YOU TAKE ORDERS FROM!

UP, DAMN IT. DON'T FEEL THE PAIN.

BRING IT UP!

INDEED? YOUR POWER REQUIRES WILL, LITTLE MAN.

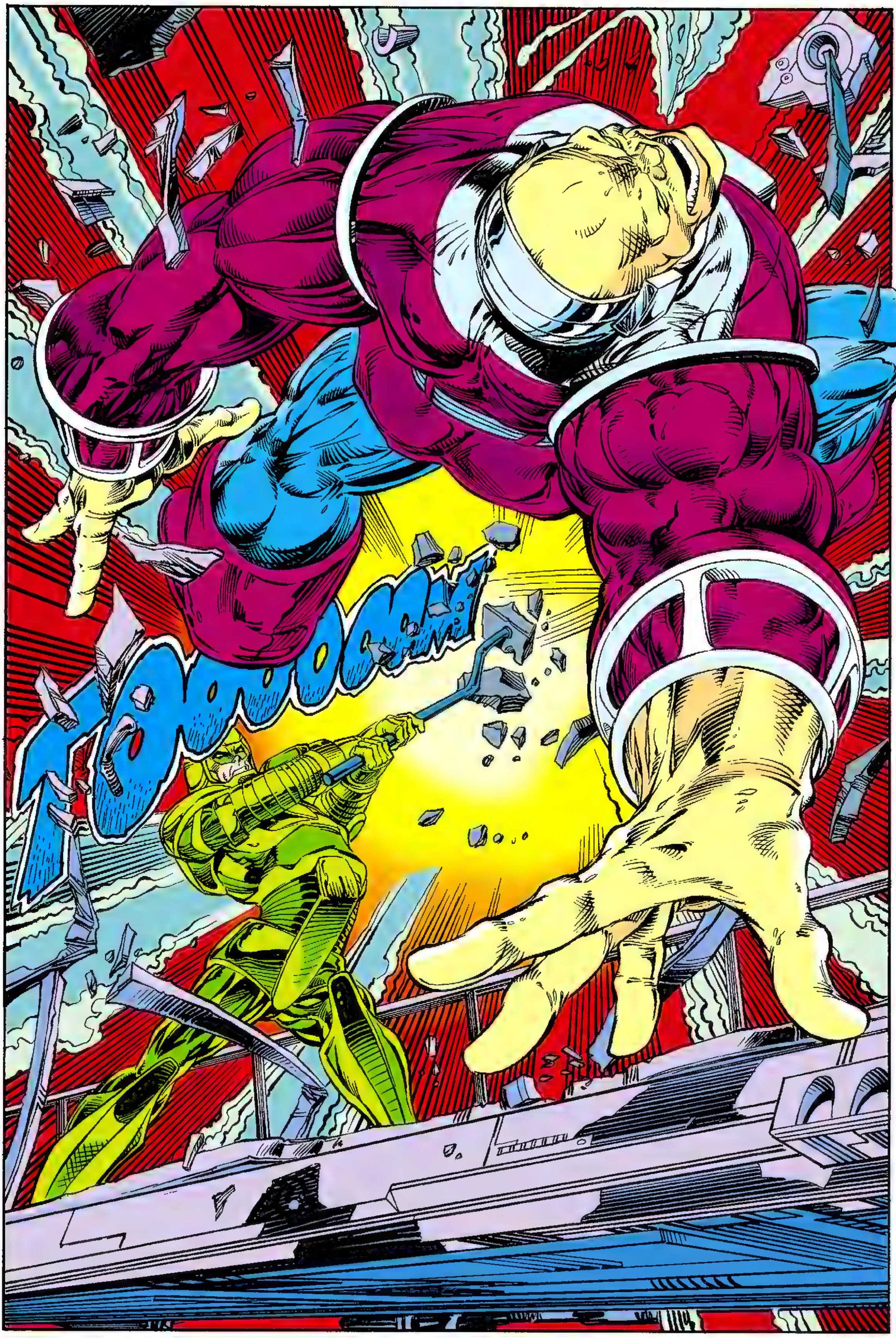
TOO BAD I SHATTERED THAT WILL.

MONGUL... YOU SHATTERED MY ARM... YOU SHATTERED MY KNEE...

KA-BOOM

BUT MY WILL IS SOMETHING YOU'LL NEVER TOUCH.

THIS IS FOR MY FRIENDS.


KRAKOOM!

SHRANG

WORM...

...NOW... YOU...

DIIEEEEEEE...

AND THE VOICES...

...FALL SILENT.

--BUT THERE ARE OTHERS.

I'VE BEEN OUT OF *ACTION* TOO LONG!

EVEN THOUGH IT'S STILL MILES AWAY--

--I CAN STILL FEEL THE SEARING HEAT AND VIBRATIONS GENERATED BY THAT ENORMOUS *ENGINE!*

HAVE I *FAILED?!*

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NO! TO FAIL AT THIS POINT WOULD BE DISASTROUS!

WE'VE ALREADY LOST FAR TOO MUCH! THE ALIEN WARRIOR MONGUL--

"-- AND HIS CYBORG COMRADE WHO COUNTERFEITS THE MAN OF STEEL --

"-- HAVE ALREADY ANNIHILATED COAST CITY AND LEFT MILLIONS DEAD AND A GOOD PORTION OF CALIFORNIA RUINED!

"IF THEY AREN'T STOPPED THEY'LL DO THE SAME TO METROPOLIS AND DRIVE EARTH RIGHT OUT OF ORBIT--

--KILLING VIRTUALLY ALL LIFE ON THE PLANET!"

THE ENGINE--IS SHUTTING DOWN! THE ONE, *TRUE* SUPERMAN MUST BE RESPONSIBLE!

YO, CHIEF! YOU MEAN THE *REAL* SUPES IS INSIDE-- THROWING PUNCHES?

THEN HE NEVER DIED AFTER ALL!

OH, HE DIED, ALL RIGHT. BUT HE'S *BACK*. AND WE CAN ONLY WONDER--

"-- WHAT THE SITUATION IS INSIDE."

YOU VERMIN *DARED* WIPE OUT A CITY I CALLED *HOME*!

BUYING YOURSELF A LOAD OF TROUBLE...

BIG TROUBLE!

MY RING DOESN'T WORK AGAINST MONGUL BECAUSE HE'S *YELLOW*! BUT A LITTLE HELP FROM MY RING WILL ENABLE ME TO LIFT THAT *HAMMER*!*

*as seen in the last chapter!

DEEP INSIDE THE MAMMOTH ENGINE, AMID AN ENDLESS SERIES OF HYDRAULICS AND PISTONS--

--A WEARY, BEATEN FIST PIERCES ITS OILY PRISON.

THE FIST BELONGS TO JOHN HENRY IRONS AND HE'S DONE HIS JOB WELL.

HE HAS BROUGHT THE GRINDING, MECHANICAL BEHEMOTH TO A DEAD STOP--

SKRUNCH

--AT GREAT PERSONAL COST.

WHEW! NEVER... FELT SO BEAT... IN MY LIFE!

TOOK EVERYTHING I HAD... TO STOP THAT THING!

GREEN LANTERN! MAYBE HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS WEIRD, GREEN STEAM!

LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOIN' AFTER THAT MONGUL GUY--

--WHICH WILL LEAVE ME FREE TO FIND THE MAN IN BLACK--

"--WHO CLAIMS TO BE THE *REAL* SUPERMAN!"

ARE YOU SURE YOU FEEL WELL ENOUGH TO CONTINUE?

YOU'RE WEAK...YOU BARELY HAVE ANY SUPER-POWERS TO SPEAK OF...

WHY DON'T YOU LET US HANDLE IT?

NO.

THE TWISTED MAN WHO BUILT THIS MONSTROSITY AND WIPED OUT COAST CITY IS STILL HERE--WEARING *MY* SYMBOL!

FOR THAT AND MORE--HE'S GOING TO PAY!

ARE YOU SURE GREEN LANTERN CAN HANDLE MONGUL BY HIMSELF?

YOUR DAY IS OVER, CRUD! FOR YOU--

"MONGUL'S A BRUTE BUT HE'S ALSO A FOOL. GL WILL FIND A WAY TO TAKE HIM DOWN!"

"--AND THAT CREEP YOU TAKE ORDERS FROM!"

GLORIOUS! GLORIOUS!

I RETURNED TO THIS PUNY PLANET WANTING NOTHING MORE THAN *REVENGE!*

BUT LADY PROVIDENCE HAS GRANTED ME MORE THAN I DARED HOPE FOR!

THE GENUINE ARTICLE-- *SUPERMAN* HIMSELF-- HAS RETURNED! AND HE--

"--AND HIS ACCURSED CITY WILL DIE AT LAST!"

STILL SITTING ON EDGE, WAITING FOR WORD ON THIS NEW SUPERMAN, LOIS?

IT'S A BIG STORY, JEB! AN ENTIRE CITY HAS BEEN ATOMIZED!

AND IF THAT MAN WHO SHOWED UP TODAY * REALLY IS *SUPERMAN*--

--I DON'T INTEND TO MISS THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

*Man of Steel #25.

SEEMS YOU'RE THE EXPERT ON WHO IS REAL AND WHO ISN'T, LOIS.

YOU ACT LIKE YOU'LL BE THE ONE TO PASS THE WORD FROM ON HIGH--

"--IF AND WHEN THIS WHOLE MESS IS STRAIGHTENED OUT!"

ALL THE PIPES AND CABLES SEEM TO LEAD THIS WAY!

MAYBE THAT'S WHERE WE'LL FIND THE BOSS! KEEP MOVING!

WAIT!

WAIT FOR ME! I WANT TO... HAVE TO BE IN ON THIS!

YOU LOOK BEAT! IF YOUR POWERS ARE GONE YOU SHOULD--

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THAT ARGUMENT DIDN'T KEEP *YOU* AWAY!

HOW ABSURD! IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH YOU'RE ARGUING OVER WHO GETS TO DIE *FIRST!*

LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT ONLY *ONE* OF YOU QUALIFIES!

WELCOME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING, SUPERMAN!

SKRAZZZ

KNOW FULL WELL THAT YOU WON'T ESCAPE DEATH *THIS* TIME!

IT'S *HIM!* ALL THIS TIME HE PLAYED US FOR FOOLS--HAD US BELIEVING HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE REAL *SUPERMAN!*

NOW'S OUR CHANCE! AFTER HIM!

NO!

HE COULD HAVE POLISHED ME OFF *EASILY* HERE AND NOW!

WHOEVER HE IS... HE *WANTS* US TO CHARGE BLINDLY AFTER HIM!

IT'S A TRAP... AND AS WEAK AS WE ARE,...HE KNOWS HE HAS US!

YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING WE STAND AROUND AND DO NOTHING--!

NEVER! BUT WE'LL HAVE TO BE *SMARTER* THAN HIM--

--AND DO THINGS OUR WAY IF WE'RE GOING TO WIN!

THIS PLACE IS *ENORMOUS!* I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!

WE'RE LIKE ANTS RUNNING LOOSE INSIDE A DIESEL ENGINE! MAKES THINGS TOUGH SINCE I CAN'T FLY THESE DAYS!

FORTUNATELY I CAN JUMP FAR ENOUGH TO CLEAR THESE GAPS!

HOLD ON!

SOUNDS LIKE METAL BEING TORN OR RIPPED CLOSE BY!

KANNG

IT'S *HIM!* THAT SUPERMAN IMPOSTOR CAN MAKE MACHINERY DO 'MOST ANYTHING HE WANTS!

IT'S LIKE HE'S LIVING INSIDE EACH INDIVIDUAL PIECE OF THIS ENGINE!

WELL, IF THAT'S THE CASE--

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA

-- I'LL START TAKING THIS PLACE APART *PIECE* BY *PIECE!*

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA

CABLES-- GRABBING ME FROM BEHIND!

THIS MADMAN CAN DO... *ANYTHING!*

I'LL MAKE SURE THIS THING *NEVER* DOES ANYTHING AGAIN!

CAN'T GET FREE! THESE THINGS ARE TOO...*STRONG!*

SKOOM

INTERESTING.

THROUGH MY MIND I CAN SEE EVERY-THING MY "ARMS" TOUCH.

ONE OF THEM, GARBED IN TECH-NOLOGY, OFFERS ME A PLAYGROUND.

WE CAN TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES! YOU GO AFTER THE MAIN MAN!

BUT--

DO IT!

HATE RUNNING OUT ON THEM, BUT HE'S RIGHT!

IF WE DON'T WIN TODAY THERE WILL BE NO TOMORROW!

TECHNOLOGY IS *MY* DOMAIN AND NOT *YOURS*, INVENTOR.

AS YOU SHALL SOON SEE.

YAHH! SOMETHING'S... WRONG!

MY... ARMOR... IS MOVING BY... ITSELF!

MY... ARMS! I CAN'T CONTROL THEM!

CAN'T STOP... STRANGLINGGG...

THE FLESH IS WEAK...

...ISN'T IT, STEEL? PITY I DIDN'T THINK OF THIS SOONER.

HE WENT THROUGH THIS CONDUIT! SOMETHING TELLS ME--

-- HE'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

AT LAST... HOW GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

WE... KNOW EACH OTHER? WE'VE MET BEFORE?

YOU MEAN YOU HAVEN'T DEDUCED MY IDENTITY YET?

WHAT A SHAME! THE CLUES... THE EVIDENCE... IT'S BEEN THERE ALL ALONG!

ON SOME LEVEL YOU MUST RECOGNIZE ME AS--

BRAMM

GIVE IT A REST, MR. WIZARD!

OFF ME, BOY! I'LL NOT TOLERATE YOUR INTERFERENCE!

HEY! DON'T CALL ME BOY!

AS I WAS SAYING, SUPERMAN... HANK HENSHAW AT YOUR SERVICE.

MASTER OF TECHNOLOGY ... MASTER OF YOU.

HENSHAW?! YOU RETURNED TO EARTH TO DO THIS?!

WHY?

YOU DROVE ME AWAY BECAUSE YOU FEARED I WAS MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU!

NOW THE UNIVERSE WILL BLAME YOU FOR EARTH'S DESTRUCTION!

AFTER HIM!

WE HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THE OTHERS FIRST!

I GOT THAT COVERED! AND SPEAKING OF BEING COVERED...

CAN'T... BREATHE...

GOOD THING DISPERSING METALLIC CONSTRUCTS WITH A TOUCH IS ONE OF MY SPECIALTIES!

SHRAK!

AIR!

HE'S GONE! I KNEW HENSHAW'S POWERS WERE FANTASTIC BUT I NEVER SUSPECTED HIM CAPABLE OF THIS!

YOU KNOW ABOUT HENSHAW?

WHILE IN YOUR FORTRESS I LEARNED MUCH OF YOUR PAST ADVENTURES.

WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LINKED, YOU AND I.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE AND I DON'T TRUST YOU ANY MORE THAN HENSHAW!

OH, YOU CAN ALWAYS TRUST ME.

TO BE YOUR NIGHTMARE COME TO LIFE!

YOU ONCE PERSUADED ME TO LEAVE EARTH BY CLAIMING I WAS DISRUPTIVE!

BUT YOU ONLY WANTED ME GONE SO EARTH WOULD BE YOURS!

FIRST YOU KILLED MY FELLOW ASTRONAUTS -- EVEN MY WIFE -- UNDER THE PRETEXT OF ASSISTING THEM!

BUT I'M BETTER... STRONGER THAN YOU... AND I'LL PROVE IT BY DESTROYING THE SECOND PLANET YOU'VE CALLED HOME!

HENSHAW'S PARANOIA'S SO COMPLETE HE'S REWRITTEN HISTORY!

HE'S TRYING TO LURE ME IN DEEPER! PROBABLY SO YOU CAN BOTH ATTACK ME AT ONCE!

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT, EH...

YOU'RE THE *ERADICATOR!* AND IN MY BOOK THAT MAKES YOU *TROUBLE!*

THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW, KAL-EL. I AM DIFFERENT.

RIGHT. I'M TAKING YOU DOWN, TOO, MISTER... AS SOON AS I'M DONE WITH HENSHAW.

IF I CAN FIND HIM...

FIND ME? I'M EVERYWHERE! I'M IN EVERY SEGMENT OF THIS STRUCTURE!

=;UHF!=

AS LONG AS WE'RE IN THIS ENGINE WE'RE *TOYS* TO HIM!

THEN WE MUST DIMINISH HIS CAPABILITIES.

SHOOM!

YOU... YOU'RE SAVING ME?

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR SURPRISE... I RECENTLY RESCUED YOU FROM ETERNAL CESSATION.

BUT I WASN'T DEAD! I WAS JUST IN A KIND OF COMA OR SOMETHING!

RIGHT?

THOUGHTS SUCH AS THOSE MAY COMFORT YOU, BUT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND--

--YOU WERE CATEGORICALLY DECEASED, KAL-EL.

ASSUMING YOU'RE RIGHT--

THERE IS NO MISTAKE IN WHAT I HAVE SAID.

DOOMSDAY KILLED YOU.

THEN *HOW* AM I HERE *NOW*?

I HAD MANY SUPERHUMAN ABILITIES -- BUT *SURVIVING DEATH* WASN'T ONE OF THEM!

UNFORTUNATELY, YOU ARE QUITE CAPABLE OF PASSING BEYOND THIS *LIFE*.

REMEMBER, THOUGH, THAT MY MISSION HAS BEEN TO PROTECT THE ULTIMATE INTEGRITY OF KRYPTONIAN LIFE.

YOU MEAN IF NOT FOR YOU I'D STILL BE DEAD?

INDEED. THE DEATH OF THE *LAST* KRYPTONIAN AWAKENED ME..., YOUR TERMINATION ACTUALLY COMPELLED ME TO VISIT YOUR BODY.

MY POWERS AND THE TECHNOLOGY AT YOUR FORTRESS WERE ABLE TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE.

YOU MEAN YOU CAN *RESTORE* LIFE?

NOT QUITE. THOUGH THE CONDITIONS WERE IDEAL AND YOUR KRYPTONIAN BODY IN EARTH'S ENVIRONMENT WAS UNIQUELY SUITED TO THE RECUPERATIVE PROCESS--

--YOU HAD NEARLY EXTINGUISHED YOUR MASSIVE STORE OF SOLAR ENERGIES IN YOUR BATTLE WITH DOOMSDAY.

ONLY BY GETTING TO YOU QUICKLY-- AND ADMINISTERING THE HEALING BATHS OF THE MATRIX CHAMBER-- COULD I HELP.

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES... AND YOUR RESUSCITATION MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.

IN FACT, IT'S SAFE TO SAY THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE EVER AGAIN.

I GUESS... I OWE YOU MY THANKS.

IT WILL TAKE ME A WHILE TO ACCEPT WHAT'S HAPPENED, BUT--

YOU THINK IT'S HARD TO ACCEPT ONE DEATH--TRY *TWO.*

HENSHAW!

WELCOME TO ENGINE CITY'S "*GAS TANK.*" BUT INSTEAD OF GAS WE USE A RATHER UN-CONVENTIONAL POWER SOURCE.

I ASSUME YOU RECOGNIZE IT, KAL.

KRYPTONITE!

MMM, HMM.

WHEN USED PROPERLY, THIS CAST-OFF FROM KRYPTON GIVES OFF ENOUGH RADIATION TO POWER A CITY!

WHEN USED *IMPROPERLY* IT CAN PROVE--

--DEADLY!

THIS IS THE ONE, FITTING WAY FOR YOU TO DIE, KRYPTONIAN!

KRYPTONITE WORKS FASTER ON ME, BUT ITS RADIATION CAN KILL HUMANS AS WELL!

THAT GREEN GLOW! GREEN LANTERN MUST BE UP AHEAD!

THE OTHERS ARE ON THEIR WAY!

SO BRIGHT THAT I CAN'T SEE A THING THROUGH IT!

WE HAVE TO PROTECT THEM! IF WE FAIL, EARTH WILL NEED THEM FOR A *BACKUP!*

THE ENTRANCE IS CLOSED OFF! WHAT HAPPENED?

THAT CRAZY CYBORG MUST HAVE DONE IT!

NO! I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF *SUPERMAN* DOING IT!

HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED BY NOW THAT A MECHANICAL DEVICE--

--IS OF NO USE AGAINST SOMEONE WHO CAN "INHABIT" IT--

--AND CONTROL IT ANY WAY HE WANTS?

BLAMM

I FAILED TO PREVENT YOU FROM DESTROYING COAST CITY, MANIAC!

HERE'S WHERE I EVEN THINGS UP!

IT'S JUST THE THREE OF US IN HERE NOW, HENSHAW!

AND WE'RE PLAYING FOR KEEPS!

WATCH ME!

THE AIR CRACKLES WITH ENERGY AS THE ERADICATOR, A DEVASTATING KRYPTONIAN WEAPON OVER 200,000 YEARS OLD--

--FIRES WITHOUT MERCY IN AN ALL-OUT ATTACK.

A PRODUCT OF THE PAST, THE ERADICATOR WAS BUILT BY ONE OF SUPERMAN'S ANCESTORS DURING AN AGE OF RECKLESS SCIENCE.

THE CYBORG, HOWEVER, IS A PRODUCT OF MORE RECENT KRYPTONIAN TECHNOLOGY.

HIS EXISTENCE IS BASED IN THE MATRIX CHAMBER SUPERMAN'S FATHER, JOR-EL, BUILT TO CARRY HIS INFANT SON TO EARTH.

ONE WAS BUILT TO KILL...

...THE OTHER TO BEAR NEW LIFE.

THE VICTOR WOULD BE OBVIOUS.

WE'VE BEATEN YOU, HENSHAW!

YOU'RE DONE!

CHANG

YOU THINK I'M DEFEATED?

NEVER! NOT WHILE THE MOST LETHAL WEAPON OF ALL--

-- IS WITHIN MY GRASP!

THIS ENTIRE INSTALLATION PULSES WITH KRYPTONITE!

EVEN I CAN FEEL ITS DEADLY RADIATION WEAKENING ME!

AND IF I'M TO DIE THIS DAY--

--I'LL SEE YOU GO FIRST!

SKOOOM

BACK, KAL-EL! MY MISSION IS TO *PROTECT* THE SANCTITY OF KRYPTONIAN LIFE!

I WON'T LET YOU DIE!

NO... MATTER... THE COST...

BUT-- I--

A BRAVE SACRIFICE...

...BUT ONE THAT SEEMS UNNECESSARY.

FOR EVEN THE MIGHTY ERADICATOR--

--IS UNABLE TO STOP THE SEARING BLAST OF RADIATION FROM PASSING THROUGH HIS BEING.

BOTH TAKE THE FULL FORCE OF THE BLAST.

ONCE THEY WERE ENEMIES.

NOW THEY WRITHE IN PAIN AS THOUGH LINKED--

I'LL SPEND THIS ROCK OF KRYPTONITE TO DUST UNTIL YOU'RE GONE!

--WAITING FOR DEATH TO EMBRACE THEM.

I'LL DRAIN ITS DEADLY ENERGY UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT!

UNTIL I SEE WITH MY OWN EYES THAT YOU'RE DEAD!

HAHAHAHA!

CHECK IT OUT! THE LANTERN LOOKS SO TOTALLED IT MAKES ME WANNA HURL!

MONGUL DID GIVE ME QUITE A TIME... BUT NOT ONE THAT I COULDN'T HANDLE. WHAT'S THE SITUATION?

SUPERMAN IS BEHIND THAT DOOR FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE!

THEN WE HAVE TO HELP HIM!

STAND BACK EVERY-BODY! I'M TAKING US IN!

RAMMM

WHAT'S TH--?

RADIATION! I BETTER PUT US IN A PROTECTIVE BUBBLE!

GOOD GOD, I CAN'T SEE A THING! WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE?

KRYPTONITE.

EVERYWHERE.

NO ONE... COULD HAVE SURVIVED THIS.

THE BODY!

I WANT THE BODY!

THIS PIECE OF KRYPTONIAN TRASH DOES ME NO GOOD!

I WANT SUPERMAN'S DAMNED BODY!

YOU KILLED MILLIONS, HENSHAW.

AND YOU DID SO WEARING MY SYMBOL... USING **MY NAME!**

UNBELIEVABLE...

TODAY... HERE AND NOW...

... I'M TAKING IT ALL *BACK!*

YOU... SHOULD BE... DEAD!

THIS IS IT FOR YOU, CYBORG!

THIS IS YOUR DOOMSDAY!

UHN!

WHAT A PUNCH!

SOMEHOW... HE'S GOTTEN HIS POWERS BACK! LET'S GET DOWN THERE AND HELP HIM!

BOK-K-KOW!

UH-UH! THIS IS HIS FIGHT AND HIS ALONE!

YOU'RE DANGEROUS, CYBORG -- I DOUBT ANY PRISON CAN EFFECTIVELY PROTECT SOCIETY FROM YOU.

YOUR *POWERS!* HOW... DID YOU GET THEM BACK?

BLAME THE ERADICATOR! WHEN THE KRYPTONITE PASSED THROUGH HIM--

--IT *CHANGED!* THE ERADICATOR DID SOMETHING... PROCESSED THE ENERGY WITH HIS OWN--*ALTERED* IT--AND RESTORED ME!

AT FIRST IT WAS PAINFUL... BUT THEN I FELT MY ABILITIES RETURN!

NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL YOU ARE--

--I'LL *ALWAYS* BE *BETTER!*

YOU'LL *NEVER* BEAT ME, SUPERMAN! **NEVER!**

WRONG.

IF I VIBRATE MY ARM AT AN INCREDIBLE RATE--

MMMMM

MMMMM

I-IT W-WON'T W-WORK!

SOMEHOW... I-I'LL SUR-SURVIVE!

I HAVE TO...!

BROOSH

IF SO.., I'LL BE WATCHING FOR YOU, HENSHAW. DON'T EVER FORGET THAT!

IS THAT IT? IS THE MENACE REALLY GONE?

IT'S LIKE THE CYBORG DIDN'T EVEN *TRY* TO ESCAPE! HE DIDN'T EVEN CHANGE FORM WHILE HE WAS FIGHTING YOU!

I DON'T THINK HE COULD. HE WAS PART KRYPTONIAN...

...THE KRYPTONITE MUST'VE AFFECTED HIM TOO.

SO, IS HE DEAD NOW OR...

I DON'T THINK SO. HENSHAW'S SURVIVED BEFORE... HIS CONSCIOUSNESS MIGHT BE ALIVE SOMEWHERE.

MY RING CAN'T LOCATE HIM IN ANY OF THE MACHINERY IN THIS ENTIRE ENGINE.

THEN IT IS OVER. IT'S FINALLY OVER.

NOT YET. THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING. SOMETHING *VITAL*.

A TELEKINETIC REALIGNMENT OF THOSE TATTERS WILL *TRULY* FINISH THINGS.

WHAT--?

GOOD MOVE.

GUESS I BETTER STOP ASKIN' THIS GUY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY!

THANKS, KID. I APPRECIATE THE SENTIMENT.

JUST LIKE I APPRECIATE YOU FOLKS TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS IN MY ABSENCE.

BUT NOW, IT'S TIME TO GO HOME.

YOU DESERVE A BREAK. WE'LL MOP THINGS UP HERE AND TAKE CARE OF THE ERADICATOR-- AND INCARCERATE MONGUL.

YOU THINK THE WORLD CAN HANDLE *TWO* SUPERMEN?

CHECK THAT, BLONDIE. I'M NOT SUPERMAN.

THAT GUY'S SUPERMAN

THE *ONE* AND *ONLY!*

AMAZING.

WHAT I'VE EXPERIENCED IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS DEFIES DESCRIPTION!

DOOMSDAY KILLED ME, MONGUL AND THE CYBORG ALMOST DESTROYED EARTH...

...AND ONE OF MY OLD ENEMIES BROUGHT ME BACK TO LIFE --AND FULL POWER!

I SHOULD FEEL TIRED...

...BUT I DON'T! ALL I WANT TO DO IS FLY--AND ENJOY BEING ALIVE!

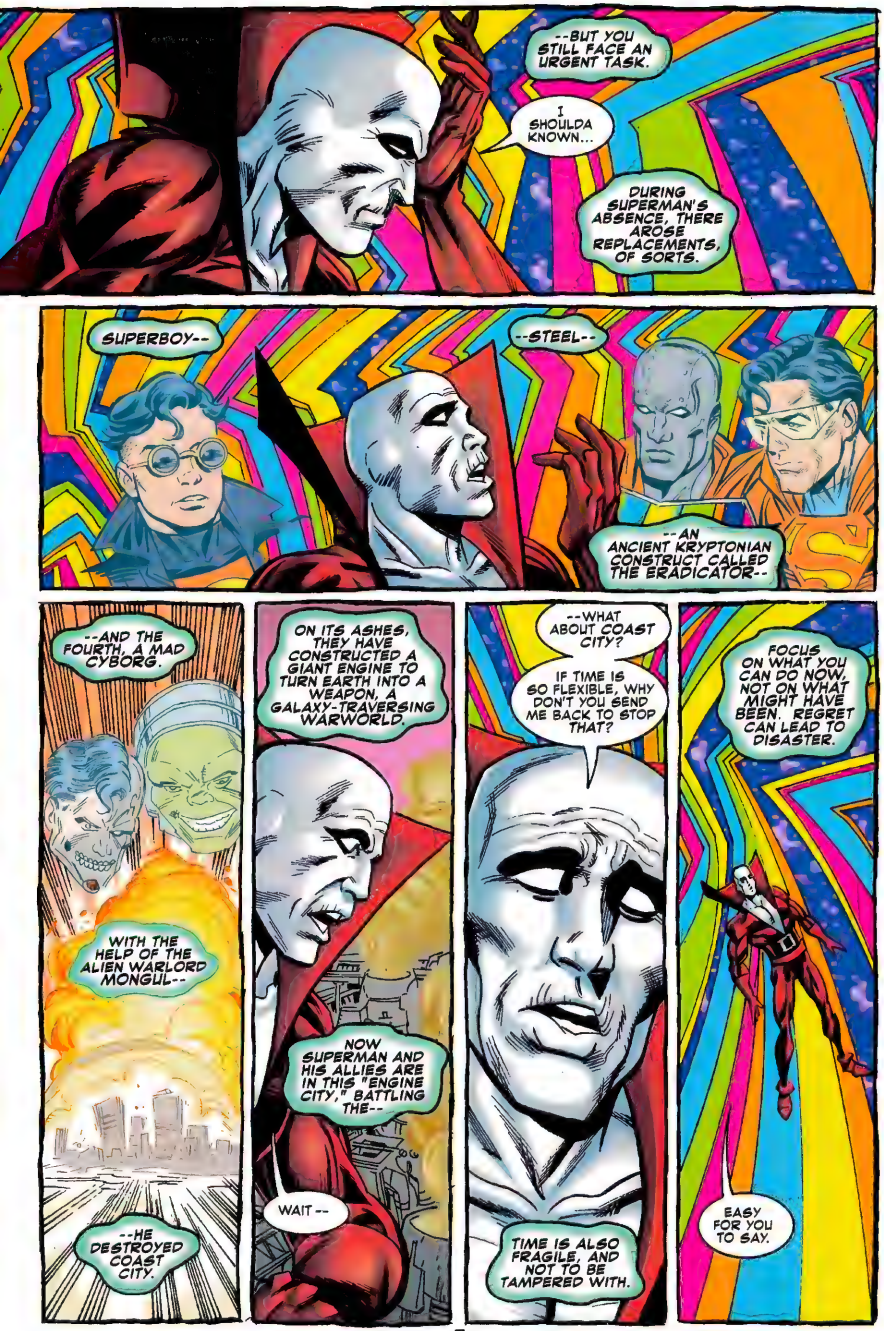
I'M REJUVENATED IN A WAY I NEVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE!

THIS WHOLE THING HAS BEEN HARD ON EVERYBODY--

--AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S COMING NEXT--

--BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME I'LL BE ABLE TO HANDLE ANYTHING BETTER THAN EVER!

OH, MAN--WHEN AM I GONNA LEARN TO LOOK BEFORE I LEAP?
WHERE--?
OH, GREAT--I'M BACK IN RAMA KUSHNA'S CRAZY DIMENSION.
I'D LOVE TO SIT AND CHAT--BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME. NERON AND CALDERA ARE--
--ARE NEITHER WHERE NOR WHEN YOU THINK THEY ARE, DEADMAN.
TIME IS NOT AS LINEAR AS YOU THINK--ESPECIALLY IN NERON'S REALM.
CALDERA'S BID FOR CONTROL OF SUPERMAN OCCURRED DAYS AGO.
DAYS?!
SO DON'T KEEP ME IN SUSPENSE! WHAT HAPPENED?
HE FAILED.
THANK GOD! BUT WON'T HE JUST TRY AGAIN?
I THINK NOT. NERON DEVOURED HIS SOUL.
"DEVOURED"--UGGH!
BUT WHAT ABOUT SUPERMAN'S SOUL? NERON WILL--
SUPERMAN'S ALIVE?!
SO BY KEEPING HIM OUT OF CALDERA'S CLUTCHES, MAYBE I DID SOME GOOD AFTER ALL!
YES--
SUPERMAN'S SPIRIT HAS ALREADY BEEN REUNITED WITH HIS MORTAL FORM.


--BUT YOU STILL FACE AN URGENT TASK.
I SHOULDA KNOWN...
DURING SUPERMAN'S ABSENCE, THERE AROSE REPLACEMENTS, OF SORTS.
SUPERBOY--
--STEEL--
--AN ANCIENT KRYPTONIAN CONSTRUCT CALLED THE ERADICATOR--
--AND THE FOURTH, A MAD CYBORG.
WITH THE HELP OF THE ALIEN WARLORD MONGUL--
--HE DESTROYED COAST CITY.
ON ITS ASHES, THEY HAVE CONSTRUCTED A GIANT ENGINE TO TURN EARTH INTO A WEAPON, A GALAXY-TRAVERSING WARWORLD.
NOW SUPERMAN AND HIS ALLIES ARE IN THIS "ENGINE CITY," BATTLING THE--
WAIT --
--WHAT ABOUT COAST CITY?
IF TIME IS SO FLEXIBLE, WHY DON'T YOU SEND ME BACK TO STOP THAT?
TIME IS ALSO FRAGILE, AND NOT TO BE TAMPERED WITH.
FOCUS ON WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW, NOT ON WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN. REGRET CAN LEAD TO DISASTER.
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.

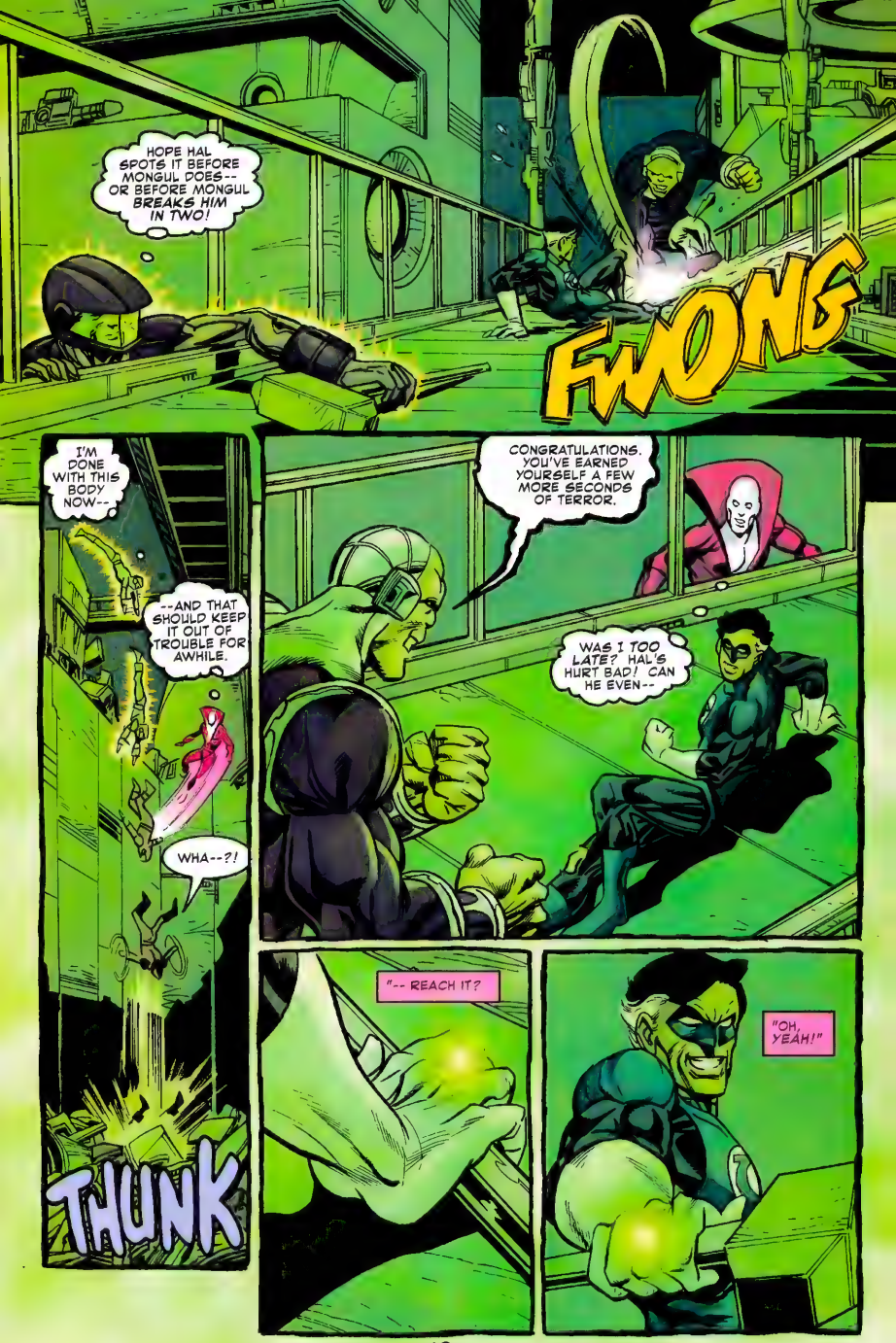
YOU WANT ME TO HELP SUPES, RIGHT? SO WHO'S GOING TO DIE THIS TIME?
THAT MAY BE FOR YOU TO DETERMINE.
THAT'S REASSURING. WHAT ABOUT HAL JORDAN? AND FLASH AND ROBIN ARE STILL--
THE FATES OF ALL ARE INTERTWINED... AND ENGINE CITY IS THE JUNCTURE.
OKAY, OKAY--DON'T BOTHER SEEING ME TO THE DOOR. ENGINE CITY--
--HERE I COME.
UH-OH! THE ENGINE'S KICKING IN--AND IT LOOKS BIG ENOUGH TO PUSH EARTH OUT OF ORBIT!
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP SUPES AND THE OTHERS! BUT FIRST--

"--I GOTTA FIND THEM!"
I'LL TAKE CARE OF MONGUL! GOOD LUCK, STEEL!
WHOEVER SAID "CLOTHES MAKE THE MAN" DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT!
THE COSTUME'S NEW, AND HE HASN'T FULLY REGAINED HIS POWERS, BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT--
--THAT'S THE REAL SUPERMAN!
HATE LEAVING HIM, BUT SOMEBODY'S GOT TO BUST UP THE CONTROL ROOM!
HARD TO BELIEVE I'M FIGHTING BY HIS SIDE--JUST A FEW DAYS AGO I WAS ONE OF HIS "STAND-INS."
BUT IF ANY OF US FOUR REALLY THOUGHT WE COULD FILL HIS SHOES, WE WERE FOOLS.
THE KID'S NOT BAD. I JUST HOPE HE CAN STOP THAT MISSILE THE CYBORG FIRED AT METROPOLIS!
AND SUPERMAN SAID THE ERADICATOR IS HEADED THIS WAY.
GOD KNOWS WHICH SIDE HE'LL BE ON.
BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE--

"--WE COULD USE SOME REINFORCE-MENTS!"
WHERE'S THE INFORMATION BOOTH WHEN YOU NEED IT? THIS PLACE IS BIGGER THAN--
BOOM
THAT SOUNDED LIKE A CLUE!
WHAM
UH-OH--THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANTED TO FIND! SUPES IS GETTING CREAMED--AGAIN!
OKAY, MONGUL--I HOPE YOU'RE A BETTER HOST THAN DOOMSDAY!
NO GOOD! IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYBODY I MEET LATELY IS IMMUNE TO ME!
I CAN'T LET SUPES BE KILLED AGAIN! I CAN'T!
NO ONE CAN SAVE YOU NOW!

MONGUL!
HOLY --! GREEN LANTERN?!
LOOKS LIKE ENGINE CITY REALLY IS THE CROSSROADS!
SHOULDA KNOWN JORDAN WOULD BE HERE. COAST CITY WAS HIS HOME--AND NOW HE'S REALLY TICKED.
SUPERMAN AND SUPERGIRL ARE STIRRING. I'D BETTER GO WHERE THE ACTION--HUH?
HAHAHAHA

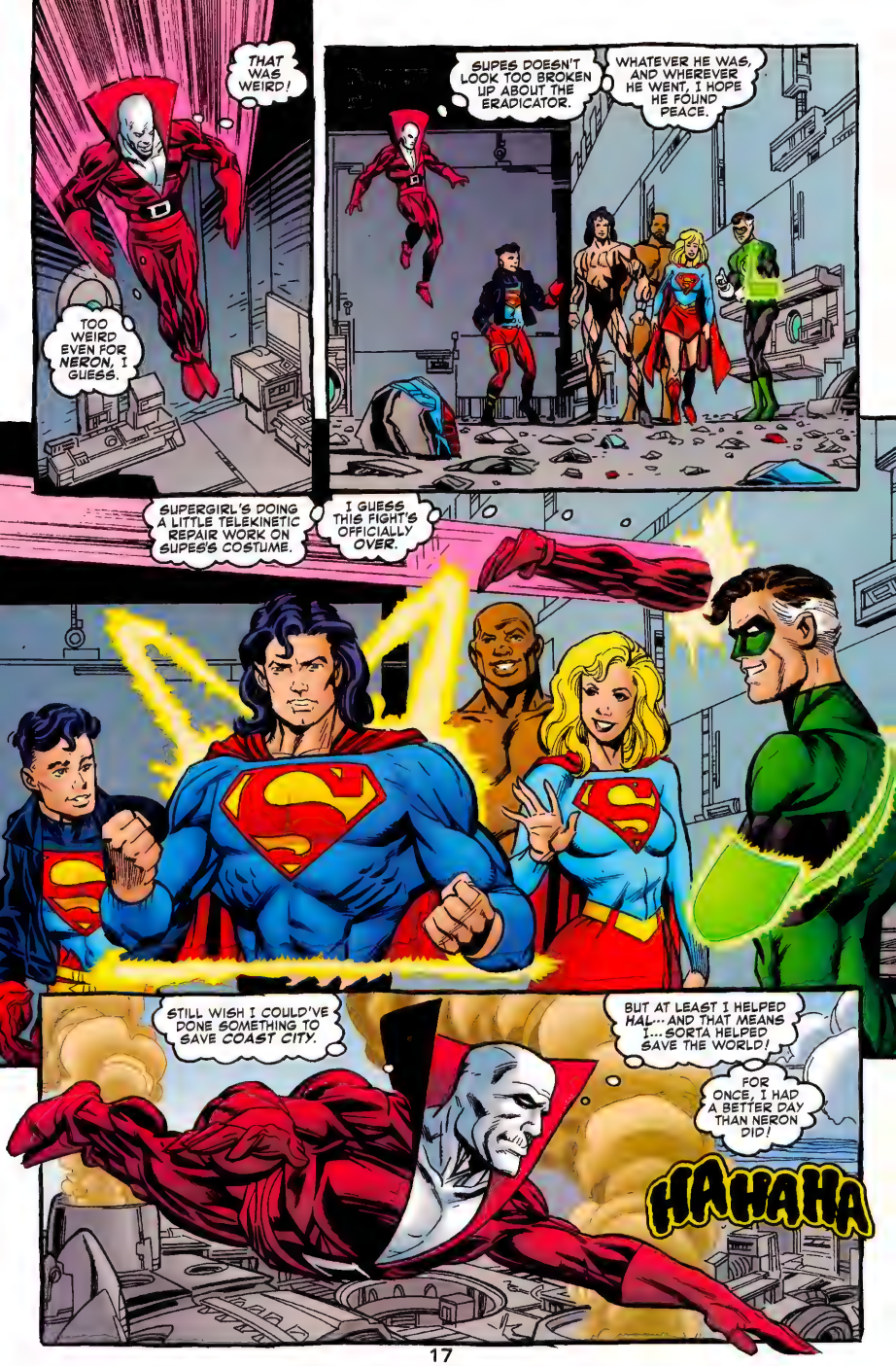
I KNOW THAT HYENA LAUGH--NERON! SHOW YOURSELF!
YOU MANAGED TO ESCAPE, DEADMAN--AND NOW YOU WOULD UPSET MY PLAN!
YOUR POWER'S NOT ENOUGH BY HALF--THOUGH IT'S QUITE ENOUGH TO MAKE ME LAUGH!
HA HA HA HA HA
BOOM
NERON'S WAITING IN THE AFTERLIFE--HE EXPECTS G.L. TO DIE!
AND RIGHT NOW, IT LOOKS LIKE HE COULD BE RIGHT!
I CAN'T BRING SUPERMAN INTO THIS FIGHT--THE ROOM IS FULL OF KRYPTONITE GAS.
BUT IF I CAN INHABIT ONE OF MONGUL'S GOONS...
I'M IN!
I NOTICED THAT STEEL LEFT HIS HAMMER LYING AROUND--
--JUST THE THING FOR HAL'S TOOL BELT!

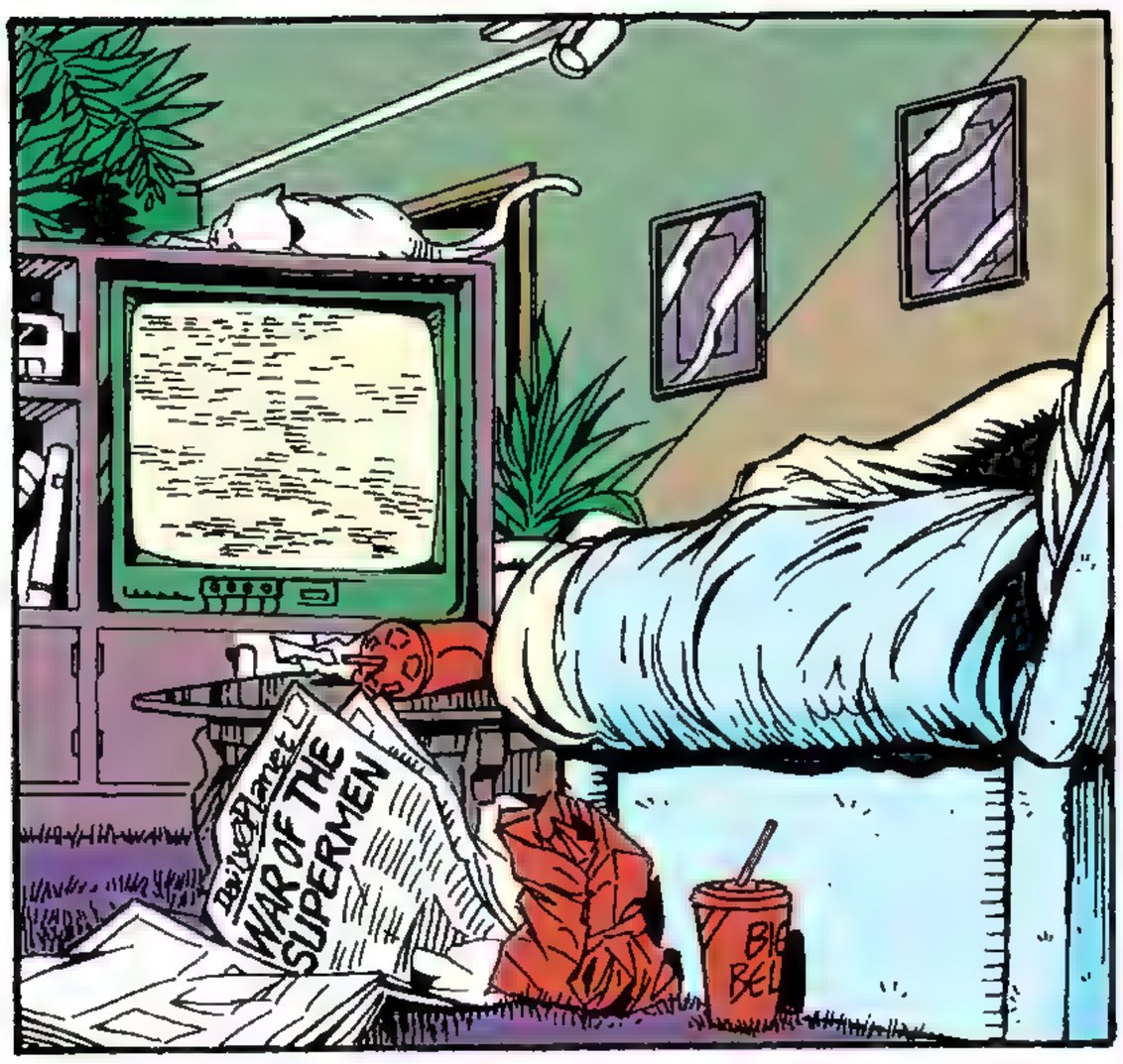

HOPE HAL SPOTS IT BEFORE MONGUL DOES -- OR BEFORE MONGUL BREAKS HIM IN TWO!
FWONG
I'M DONE WITH THIS BODY NOW--
--AND THAT SHOULD KEEP IT OUT OF TROUBLE FOR AWHILE.
WHA--?!
THUNK
CONGRATULATIONS. YOU'VE EARNED YOURSELF A FEW MORE SECONDS OF TERROR.
WAS I TOO LATE? HAL'S HURT BAD! CAN HE EVEN--
"-- REACH IT?
"OH, YEAH!"

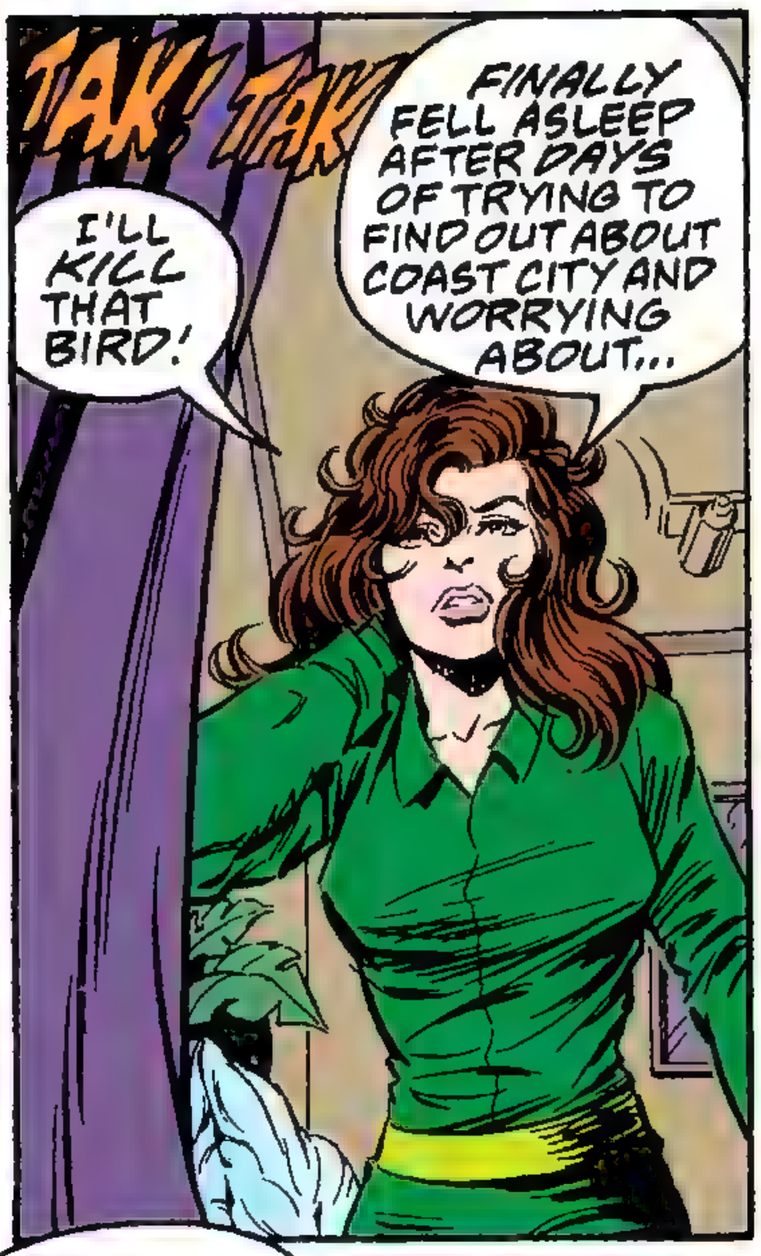
YOU VERMIN DARED WIPE OUT A CITY I CALLED HOME!
YOUR DAY IS OVER, CRUD!
YOUR POWER REQUIRES WILL, LITTLE MAN. TOO BAD I SHATTERED THAT WILL.
MONGUL--MY WILL IS SOMETHING YOU'LL NEVER TOUCH.
YOU TELL HIM, HAL--
"--AND NOW SHOW HIM!"
THIS IS FOR MY FRIENDS!
THOOM!
TAKE THAT, NERON! HAL JORDAN LIVES!
NOW I'D BETTER CHECK UP ON SUPERMAN AND THE REST...

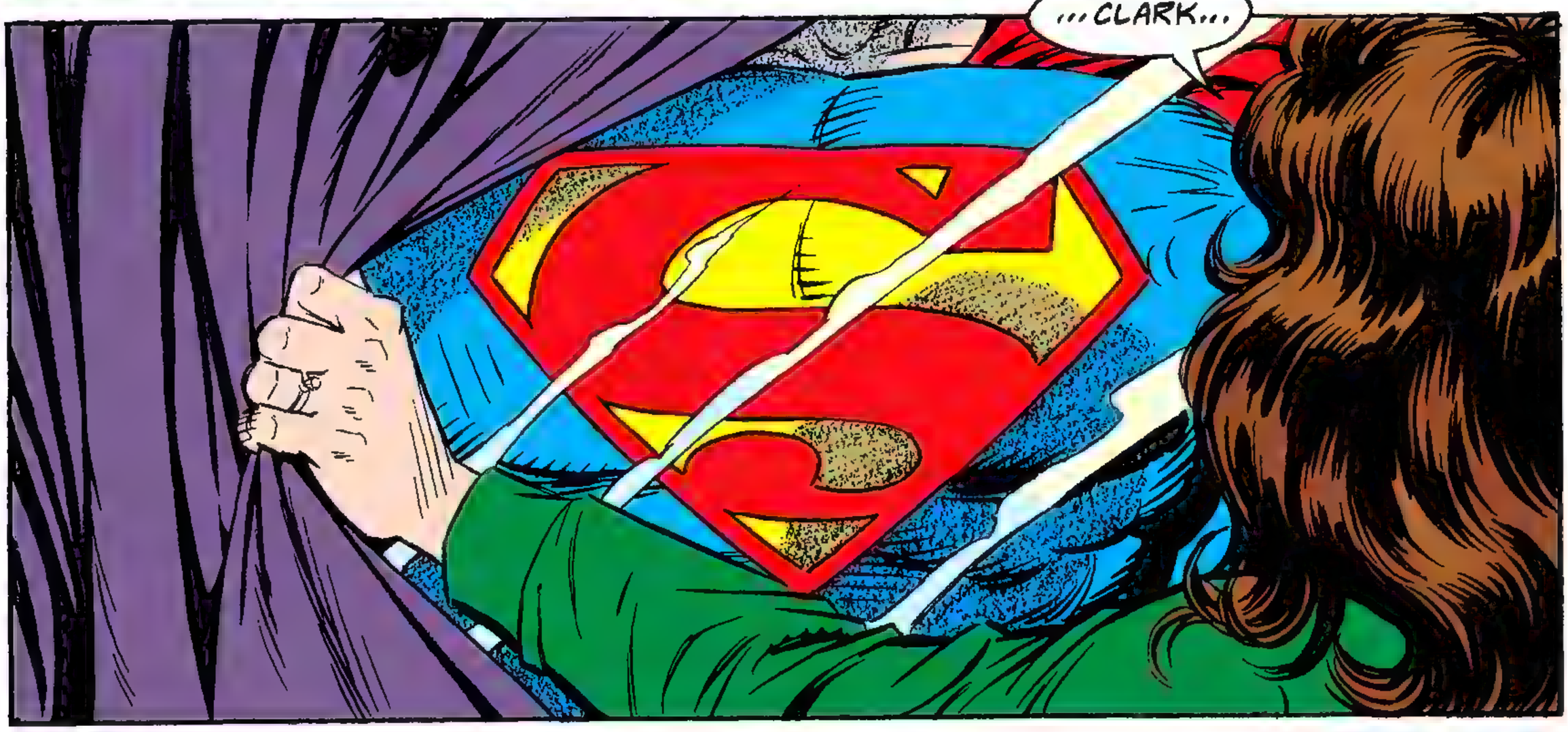
"... I JUST HOPE THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY OTHER CASUALTIES."
WE'VE BEATEN YOU--YOU'RE DONE!
THIS ENTIRE INSTALLATION PULSES WITH KRYPTONITE!
IF I'M TO DIE THIS DAY--
OH, NO!
--I'LL SEE YOU GO FIRST!
BACK, KAL-EL! MY MISSION IS TO PROTECT KRYPTONIAN LIFE!
I WON'T LET YOU DIE!
"I'M TOO LATE--"

WAS I JUST IN TIME TO WATCH SUPES DIE AGAIN?
NO! HE'S ALIVE--AND JUDGING FROM THAT PUNCH, HE'S BACK AT FULL POWER!
BUT THE ERADICATOR WASN'T SO LUCKY.
HEY! WAIT UP!
IS THAT--THING THE ERADICATOR'S SOUL?
AND IF IT IS, CAN NERON BE FAR AWAY?
WE'RE BACK IN THE "DEAD ZONE!" IF NERON DOES SHOW UP, HOW CAN I STOP HIM?
HUH? IT--HE--HE'S FADING AWAY!
HE'S GONE.
LIKE STARDUST.


THAT WAS WEIRD!
TOO WEIRD EVEN FOR NERON, I GUESS.
SUPES DOESN'T LOOK TOO BROKEN UP ABOUT THE ERADICATOR.
WHATEVER HE WAS, AND WHEREVER HE WENT, I HOPE HE FOUND PEACE.
SUPERGIRL'S DOING A LITTLE TELEKINETIC REPAIR WORK ON SUPES'S COSTUME.
I GUESS THIS FIGHT'S OFFICIALLY OVER.
STILL WISH I COULD'VE DONE SOMETHING TO SAVE COAST CITY.
BUT AT LEAST I HELPED HAL... AND THAT MEANS I... SORTA HELPED SAVE THE WORLD!
FOR ONCE, I HAD A BETTER DAY THAN NERON DID!
HAHAHA







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REIGN OF THE SUPERMAN!

THERE ISN'T A DOUBT IN HER MIND. SHE'S IN HIS ARMS...

...FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET.

KARL KESEL - WRITER ★ TOM GRUMMETT - PENCILLER ★ DOUG HAZLEWOOD - INKER
ALBERT DE GUZMAN - LETTERER ★ GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST ★ FRANK PITTARESE - ASSOC. EDITOR
MIKE CARLIN - SUPER EDITOR

SUPERMAN Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

WHEW!

BEEN A WHILE.

I LIKE THE HAIR.

LATER...

TALKED TO MARTHA AND JONATHAN YET?

CALLED THEM WHILE YOU WERE SHOWERING, LOIS.

GOOD--THIS LAST MONTH'S BEEN A NIGHTMARE FOR YOUR FOLKS, CLARK. FOR ALL OF US...

LET'S FACE IT--YOU DIED! WE BURIED YOU!

DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ON THE POLITICS PLAYED OVER YOUR BODY--I'M IN TOO GOOD A MOOD!

THEN YOUR DAD HAS A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE, SAYS YOU'RE BACK AND--BOOM!--FOUR SUPERMEN HIT METROPOLIS!

YOU FINALLY REALLY SHOW UP WITH ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF YOUR POWERS AND STILL RUN OFF TO SAVE THE WORLD...

...OR DIE AGAIN, DEPENDING HOW YOUR LUCK RAN!

I'M JUST GLAD IT'S OVER. YOU'RE BACK, YOUR POWERS ARE BACK, AND--

LOIS--WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THOSE THINGS NEVER HAPPENED!

IT MUST'VE BEEN A DREAM.'

FWUP!

VERY FUNNY, KENT!

THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FUNNY, RIGHT?

WELL, I WAS HOPING FOR A GUEST-SHOT ON SEINFELD.

DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH! AND REMEMBER-- I KNOW YOUR ONE WEAKNESS...

...YOU'RE TICKLISH IN A CERTAIN SP--

OH, NO YOU DON'T, LOIS! YOU--!

...YOU...

...YOU'LL BE LATE FOR WORK.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT--I'M IN MOURNING.

WHAT DO YOU M--

OH, NO!

UH...OH... I ALMOST FORGOT, TOO--

--YOU'RE STILL DEAD! THAT IS-- CLARK KENT IS PRESUMED DEAD.

IT'S BEEN WEEKS! WE CLOSED YOUR APARTMENT... PERRY HIRED A REPLACEMENT...

SUPERMAN'S RESURRECTION IS UNBELIEVABLE ENOUGH...

...BUT CLARK'S HOW--?

GIVE ME A MINUTE. I'VE DONE THIS SORT OF THING BEFORE. NOT QUITE AS TOUGH, BUT--

OKAY. HOW'S THIS...

"I WAS HIT ON THE HEAD. GOT AMNESIA. I'VE BEEN WORKING AS A FARMHAND..."

"WHERE--DINOSAUR ISLAND? YOU'RE THE MOST FAMOUS MISSING PERSON SINCE AMELIA EARHART!"

"ALL RIGHT--I WAS SWEPT AWAY BY THE RECENT UNDERGROUND FLOODS..."

"AND WHAT? BOBBED AROUND IN THE OCEAN ALL THIS TIME?"

"WELL, THERE'S ALWAYS ALIEN ABDUCTION--"

"CLARK!"

I'M SORRY, LOVE-- BUT WHO WOULD EVER FALL FOR THOSE STORIES?

UM... YOU DID, LOIS. ALL THE TIME.

OKAY, SMART GUY--THAT JUST COST YOU AN *EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW* ABOUT YOUR RETURN!

GOOD THING CLARK'S STILL "DEAD"-- YOU CAN'T SCOOP ME *THIS* TI--

SHHH!

TROUBLE. TEN BLOCKS FROM HERE.

A JOB FOR ME.

WSSHHHH!

HMMM.

HOW COME THERE'S NEVER *ANOTHER* SUPERMAN AROUND WHEN YOU *REALLY* NEED ONE?

JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN, S.T.A.R. LABS METROPOLIS.

...UNCLE SAM ENTRUSTED US WITH SOME DELICATE CARGO FROM COAST CITY. HOME BASE.

ALREADY BRIEFED. CHOPPER ONE. DR. FAULKNER AND TEAM STANDING BY...

DOC! IF THIS ONE'S ALIVE, HE'S BARELY WITH US!

GET HIM TO LAB SIX--FULL DIAGNOSTICS! FIND OUT WHAT MAKES HIM TICK!

HURRY!

EASY, STEEL-- WE'VE GOT YOU.

DON'T WORRY. I CAN--

AAH!

OKAY-- YOU GOT ME.

A SEAT, MR. STEEL?

I WOULDN'T SAY NO, DOC.

WE'LL TAKE YOU TO METROPOLIS GENERAL, IF YOU'D LIKE.

OH, HE'D LIKE! HE'D LIKE!

CHECK IT OUT, STEEL--THE NURSES ARE SUCH HOT BABES THEY'LL GIVE YOU A TEMPERATURE!

NOT TODAY, KID. LIKE THE MAN SAID--IT'S NOT THE YEARS, IT'S THE MILEAGE.

THEY'LL TURN BACK YOUR ODOMETER-- BELIEVE ME!

LATER, DUDE.

YOU'RE A FINE MAN, STEEL. GET WELL.

HEY--YOU NEVER KISSED ME LIKE THAT!

YOU'D TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY.

THAT'S RIGHT! WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?

'BYE, STEEL.

ME? I'M ON IMPULSE POWER.. I GOTTA HIT THE RACK BEFORE I TOTALLY CRASH 'N' BURN!

SO LONG, SUPERGIRL. KEEP AN EYE ON SUPERBO-- ER, MAN... UM...

YOU KNOW-- THE KID!

NO--I MEANT YOUR NAME. NOW THAT THE REAL SUPERMAN'S BACK.

OH. YEAH. THAT.

PROBLEM IS I, UH, KINDA TRADEMARKED THAT NAME WHILE THE BIG GUY WAS WAS DEAD. LEGAL-WISE IT'S MINE, NOT HIS.

UPTOWN.

...SURRENDER! THE PLACE IS SURROUNDED BY THE SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT--TRAINED TO HANDLE META-HUMANS LIKE YOU!

DON'T MAKE THIS WORSE! LET THE HOSTAGES GO!

METRO POLI

SPECIAL

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE! YOU CAN'T OPEN THE VAULT'S TIME-LOCK!

SHE DOESN'T KNOW HOW WRONG SHE IS!

BUT THEN, METROPOLIS HAS NEVER SEEN THE LIKES OF LOOPHOLE BEFORE!

THAT'LL CHANGE, DARLING--I'M SURE THE BANK'S CAMERAS GOT LOTS OF PICTURES!

FINE! I WANT S.T.A.R. LABS TO KNOW THEIR PROTOTYPE WAS STOLEN BY DEKE DICKSON--ONE OF THEIR OWN C.P.A.'S!

MAYBE YOU CAN STEAL MORE MONEY WITH A BRIEFCASE THAN A GUN...

K-TUNNG

...BUT NOTHING BEATS SUPER-POWERS!

CLOSE, PUNK.

NOTHING BEATS SUPERMAN.!

TEEEAAHH!

WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR?

SHOOT ME FULL OF HOT LEAD! COME ON...

"...I'LL HELP!"

WHAT--?!

HIS HEAT VISION!

QUICK! GET TO THE HOSTAGES BEFORE HE USES IT...

...TO FREE THEM!

WAY AHEAD OF YOU.

PLAY IT SMART-- COME ALONG QUIETLY.

DEKE! YOU SAID ALL THE SUPERMEN WERE IN COAST CITY!

SO? WE CAN ESCAPE ANY TIME! LET'S SEE WHAT THIS GUY'S GOT!

DON'T PUSH IT, PAL--THERE'S OTHER PLACES I'D MUCH RATHER BE!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH, SUPERMAN.

TAK!

AND WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW...

AAHRRR!!

...CAN HURT YOU!

A MOLECULAR DISRUPTOR, SUPERMAN!

IT PUSHES ASIDE THE ATOMS OF ANY SOLID OBJECT I PASS THROUGH, RE-FORMING IT BEHIND ME!

IT ISN'T EFFORTLESS-- IT'S LIKE WALKING THROUGH WATER.

BUT IT REALLY PLAYS HELL WITH ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS AND LIVING THINGS...

...DOESN'T IT?

W-WATER. HUH?

EVER BEEN HIT BY A TIDAL WAVE?

SMASHOOM!

OH, THINGS ARE GETTING BETTER BY THE MINUTE!

:UNF!:

DON'T WORRY, SHEILA. I'M FINE-- AND THAT WAS HIS BEST PUNCH!

I'LL TURN OFF THE POWER TO ONE HAND. HELP ME UP AND I'LL--

ONE CATCH-- ONE LOOPHOLE-- TO THAT PLAN, FRIEND.

IF SHE CAN GRAB YOUR HAND--

--SO CAN I!

FRATTZ-ZZZIK!

POLICE! DON'T ANYONE--

ALWAYS WERE A WIENER, DEKE!

--MOVE?

I DON'T THINK *LOOPHOLE* WILL GIVE YOU ANY TROUBLE *THERE*, MAGGIE.

WITH HIS *TOY* BROKEN, THE SOLID OBJECTS HE WALKED THROUGH LIKE *WATER*...

...HAVE HARDENED AROUND HIM LIKE *ICE*!

GET ME *OUT*! YOU'VE GOT TO GET ME *OUT*! YOU CAN'T *LEAVE* ME LIKE THIS!

WATCH US.

NICE JOB, FABIO.

YOU'RE--WHAT?--SUPERMAN NUMBER SIX? *SEVEN*?

NO, MAGGIE--I'M NUMBER ONE. THE *REAL* SUPERMAN.

YEAH. HEARD *THAT* BEFORE.

BELIEVE WHAT YOU *WANT*, CAPTAIN SAWYER. I'M NOT--

THAT'S *INSPECTOR* SAWYER, BUSTER! I GOT PROMOTED--

--AFTER SUPERMAN DIED.

HM. BUNCO-TYPES USUALLY *MISS* LITTLE THINGS LIKE THAT.

IF THIS IS A SCAM, IT'S A *SLICK* ONE.

NO SCAM, MAGGIE.

AND CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PRO--

MAGGIE! THERE'S A "SUPER-FREAK" DRESSED LIKE A COP TEARIN' UP THE--

--WATERFRONT DISTRICT. GREEN SKIN, FIN ON HIS HEAD. I SEE HIM.

IF YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF LOOPHOLE--

--I'LL MEET YOU THERE.

HE'S BACK?

HE'S BACK...

"...WITH A VENGEANCE."

THERE HE GOES-- THE REAL SUPERMAN. OR SO HE SAYS.

...AND ANYONE ELSE WHO WEARS THAT "S" SYMBOL!

WHICH REMINDS ME, HAPPERSEN...

ANONYMOUSLY HAVE CADMUS'S DIRECTOR WESTFIELD LEARN HOW TO CONTACT DABNEY DONOVAN.

NO MATTER. IF I CAN'T CONTROL HIM, I'LL DESTROY HIM.

YES, MR. LUTHOR?

I THINK HE'LL FIND A MAD SCIENTIST VERY USEFUL WHEN DEALING WITH THAT MUTUAL THORN IN OUR SIDES...

"...SUPERBOY!"

NOK! NOK!

3C

NOK! NOK! NOK!

WHZUP? WH'ZIT? ALIEN INVASION 'R...?

HUH? TANA?

'LO, KID. SORRY TO WAKE YOU.

OH, UH... NO PROBLEM, TANA.

I MEAN, SLEEP ANY LONGER AND I'D BE THE NATIONAL WHISPER'S NEWEST COMA BOY!

HEY--YOU HUNGRY? I'M HUNGRY!

NOT REALLY. I...

TITANO'S PIZZA

LET'S CHECK THE FRIDGE.

GOT SOME BLUE STUFF...

...DON'T THINK IT WAS BLUE BEFORE...

...AND MOO SHU SOMETHING... OR IS THAT SPAGHETTI...?

LISTEN, KID--A LOT'S HAPPENED, AND I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW...

...I QUIT GBS TODAY...

...AND I'M LEAVING METROPOLIS!

...CAT GRANT, REPORTING FROM THE WEST SIDE--AN AREA DEMOLISHED IN THE EPIC SUPERMAN/DOOMSDAY BATTLE.

A FITTING PLACE TO MARK THE RETURN OF THE MAN THE PUBLIC INSTINCTIVELY TOOK TO AS THE ONE TRUE...

SUPER-MAN!

SUPER-MAN!

SUPER-MAN!

SUPER-MAN!

METRO POLICE

SUPERMAN! HEY, SUPERMAN!

AW, HE CAN'T HEAR ME! WISH I HAD MY SIGNAL WA--

--WHOA!

DON'T NEED IT, JIMMY-- I COULD PICK YOUR VOICE OUT OF ANY SCREAMING CROWD!

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU!

GOOD TO SEE ALL OF YOU AGAIN.

YEAH, THE GANG'S ALL HERE... EXCEPT CLARK. HE--

I HEARD.

ONE OF THE 337 UNACCOUNTED FOR SINCE DOOMSDAY.

FRANKLY, I DIDN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE BACK-- HAD TO SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES-- BUT CLARK...

...CLARK'S JUST FLESH AND BLOOD.

DON'T COUNT HIM OUT YET, PERRY.

MAYBE HE LOST HIS MEMORY, OR WAS SWEPT OUT TO SEA. OR--

LOOK OUT! SOMEONE BROKE THROUGH THE POLICE LINE!

THAT'S RIGHT! AIN'T NUTHIN' GONNA KEEP ME FROM GETTIN' AT--

--MY FAV'RIT!

IT'S THE REAL YOU, SOOPERMAN-- AN' AIN'T NO ONE HAPPIER'N OL' BIBBO!

AN' THIS HERE'S KRYPTO. HE'S KINDA NAMED IN YER HONOR AN' HE'S HOUSEBROKE... MOSTLY.

YARK!

YOP!

YIP!

I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, BIBBO.

HEY, YA DON'T GOTTA--

WHAT'S WITH THAT MUTT? I AIN'T NEVER SEEN 'IM THIS ADJIVATED!

YERF!

YERF!

PROBABLY A CAT. LET ME CHECK WITH MY X-RAY--

OH MY GOD!

GET AN AMBULANCE!

EVERYONE, STAY BACK! THIS RUBBLE'S TOO UNSTABLE!

THERE'S AN OLD FALLOUT SHELTER DOWN HERE!

WHAT IS IT, SUPERMAN? IS SOMEONE ALIVE?

GOD WILLING.

HONEY--?

HUH--?

S-SUPERMAN. SAID YOU'D COME. TOLD TIMMY.

HE'S ASLEEP. BEEN SLEEPING A LOT.

KNEW YOU'D SAVE US. WOULDN'T LET US DIE.

NEVER.

I'D RATHER DIE MYSELF.

MEDIC!

AHH!

'SOKAY, TIMMY-- SUPERMAN'S GOT US.

BADLY MALNOURISHED... DEHYDRATED...

THEY MUST'VE HAD SOME FOOD AND A WATER SUPPLY.

YOU GOT TO THEM IN TIME, SUPERMAN.

THEY OKAY, SOOPERMAN? YOU SAVE 'EM?

KRYPTO SAVED THEM, BIBBO! IF THAT DOG COULD FLY, I'D PUT A CAPE ON HIM AND--

HEY, SUPERMAN.. MAYBE CLARK IS TRAPPED LIKE THOSE KIDS!

!

NOW WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT, JIMMY?

NEXT WEEK:

ACTION #692
THE FINAL FATE OF
CLARK KENT!

IN 4 WEEKS:

ADVENTURES #506
THE FINAL FATE OF
SUPERBOY

SUPERMAN

"--I KNEW YOU'D SAVE ME!"

AND WHO, DISGUISED AS CLARK KENT?

ROGER STERN - WRITER * KARL KESEL - CO-PLOTTER
JACKSON GUICE & DENIS RODIER - ARTISTS * ALBERT DE GUZMAN - LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST * FRANK PITTARESE - ASSOCIATE EDITOR
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR SUPERMAN Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

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IT'S OKAY...

...EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT NOW.

JUST GIVE ME YOUR HAND, KENT.

...DAILY PLANET REPORTER CLARK KENT, WHO HAD BEEN MISSING FOR OVER A MONTH! AS WITH THE CHILDREN RESCUED YESTERDAY*--

LOOK!

IT'S HIM--IT'S REALLY HIM!

SUPERMAN FOUND HIM--

--AND HE'S ALIVE!

CAREFUL NOW.

IN THE SECOND SUCH AMAZING RESCUE IN THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, SUPERMAN HAS FOUND YET ANOTHER SURVIVOR OF DOOMSDAY'S RAMPAGE...

*IN ADVENTURES #505

"--KENT WAS FOUND TRAPPED IN THE BASEMENT OF A BUILDING WHICH HOUSED A CIVIL DEFENSE SHELTER."

WOW! THAT LIGHT'S A LOT BRIGHTER THAN WHAT I'VE BEEN USED TO!

CLARK!

CLARK--YOU'RE ALIVE!

LOIS!

...OH, LORD, IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

IT'S DREAMING OF THIS MOMENT THAT'S KEPT ME GOING.

ME, TOO, LOVER... ME, TOO.

SUPERMAN, WE OWE YOU SO MUCH!

YES. WITHOUT YOU...

...I'D HAVE LOST CLARK FOREVER. IT'S SO GOOD TO HAVE BOTH OF YOU BACK...

...THANKS.

UH... MY PLEASURE, MS. LANE.

HEY, CLARK... LOIS... HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! YOU, TOO, SUPERMAN...

"...SAY "CHEESE!"

SUPERMAN, THE WHOLE WORLD IS WONDERING HOW YOU MANAGED TO SURVIVE YOUR BATTLE WITH DOOMSDAY.

SOME PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT YOUR DEATH WAS FAKED, WHILE OTHERS BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN'T DIE. DO YOU HAVE A STATEMENT--?

NOW, MR. KENT, WE WON'T *INSIST* YOU GET CHECKED OUT AT THE HOSPITAL...

BUT YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA. WELL, I CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT.

MS. GRANT, I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOUR VIEWERS WOULD BE CURIOUS ABOUT MY... COMEBACK. FRANKLY, I'M STILL LOOKING FOR SOME OF THE ANSWERS MYSELF.

AND UNTIL I FIND THEM, IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE TO MAKE ANY SWEEPING STATEMENTS ABOUT--!

J-JUST A MINUTE! YOU CAN'T CALL THAT MAN SUPERMAN!

OH, NO! NOT *HIM* AGAIN!

EH?

THE SUPERMAN TRADEMARK IS HELD BY REX LEECH ENTERPRISES. YOU ARE TO CEASE AND DESIST FROM ALL USAGE OF THE NAME IMMEDIATELY...

... PLEASE?

WHAT *IS* THIS?

YOU HADN'T HEARD? WHILE YOU WERE... GONE, YOUR YOUNG CLONE'S BUSINESS MANAGER STARTED NAILING DOWN THE RIGHTS TO YOUR NAME.

SO I SEE. I'VE GOT TO HAVE A TALK WITH THAT BOY.

DO YOU INTEND TO CHALLENGE THE TEEN SUPERMAN'S CLAIMS IN COURT?

COURT?!

SURELY IT WON'T COME TO THAT. WILL IT?

IT'S A COMPLICATED WORLD YOU'VE RETURNED TO, SUPERMAN.

IT WAS NEVER SIMPLE, MS. GRANT, BUT I SEE YOUR POINT.

I JUST HOPE THAT CLARK KENT HAS AN EASIER TIME READJUSTING TO HIS LIFE THAN I DO TO MINE!

AND SO ENDS THE FIRST FULL DAY BACK ON THE JOB FOR THE MAN WHOM MOST BELIEVE TO BE THE ORIGINAL SUPERMAN-- ALIVE AND WELL!

EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE NOT BEEN SO KIND TO HIS WOULD-BE REPLACEMENTS...

...THERE HAS BEEN NO WORD ON THE CONDITION OF THE SELF-PROCLAIMED "SON OF KRYPTON" WHO WAS EARLIER RECEIVED BY S.T.A.R. LABS XENOBIOLOGISTS.

THE FULL EXTENT OF HIS INJURIES, REPORTEDLY INCURRED AT THE COAST CITY DISASTER ZONE, ARE UNKNOWN.

DOCTORS AT METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL, HOWEVER, SAY THAT THE ARMORED "MAN OF STEEL"--ALSO INJURED IN THE CALIFORNIA BATTLE-- IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A FULL RECOVERY.

EMER

ALREADY BACK ON HIS FEET, AFTER SAVING METROPOLIS FROM A SNEAK MISSILE ATTACK, IS THE TEEN SUPERMAN--

--SHOWN HERE WITH LEXCORP'S SUPERGIRL.

IN WASHINGTON, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS RUSHED TO DISCREDIT THE ROGUE CYBORG-SUPERMAN WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF COAST CITY.

PENTAGON SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE SUPER-IMPOSTOR WAS DESTROYED BY THE ORIGINAL SUPERMAN.

AND IN CALIFORNIA, A SPECIAL JUSTICE LEAGUE TASK FORCE RETURNED FROM AN UNSPECIFIED SPACE MISSION TO TAKE OVER MOP-UP OPERATIONS IN THE DISASTER ZONE.

LEAGUE RESERVIST CAPTAIN MARVEL SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE TASK FORCE...

WE CAN BUT INCREASE OUR VIGILANCE, TO DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO SEE TO IT THAT SUCH A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN.

THE DEPTH OF OUR SORROW FOR THE SURVIVING FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THE VICTIMS OF COAST CITY IS BALANCED ONLY BY OUR RELIEF THAT THE REAL SUPERMAN IS BACK AMONG US.

OTHER LEAGUE MEMBERS WERE LESS FORTHCOMING...

HEY, GET THAT CAMERA OUTTA MY FACE!

SO I PICKED THE WRONG SUPERMAN! GIMME A BREAK!

MEANWHILE...

IT FEELS SO GOOD TO BE ALIVE AND ABLE TO FLY AGAIN... WITH THE WIND IN MY FACE AND METROPOLIS STRETCHING OUT IN EVERY DIRECTION.

IT GIVES ME HOPE THAT WE CAN FINALLY GET ON WITH OUR LIVES, AND PUT ALL THE INSANITY BEHIND US--!

SUPERMAN...

"...I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!!"

THE AMPLIFICATION ISN'T NECESSARY, LUTHOR. I CAN HEAR YOU FINE WITHOUT IT.

IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?

YES, YOU CAN TELL ME WHAT YOU'VE DONE WITH MY SUPERGIRL. SINCE SHE WENT WALKABOUT WITH YOU PEOPLE TO THE WEST COAST, I'VE HARDLY SEEN HIDE NOR HAIR OF HER!

YOUR SUPERGIRL?

OH, SHE'S CALLED AND LEFT MESSAGES, BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONNECT WITH HER AT ALL. WHERE IS SHE?

WELL, LEX, SHE *HAS* BEEN BUSY. WE ALL HAVE. I CAN'T TELL YOU MUCH MORE THAN THAT. I'M HARDLY SUPERGIRL'S KEEPER...

...AND NEITHER ARE YOU!

WHY, YOU SANCTIMONIOUS BERK! IT *IS* YOU!

EXCUSE ME, MR. L?

I WAS JUST SAYING THAT I BELIEVE THAT OUR FLYING FRIEND IS GENUINE, MERTON. DOOMSDAY DIDN'T KILL HIM AFTER ALL...

...WHICH MEANS I'LL HAVE MY CHANCE YET!

WELL, MR. KENT--

-- I MUST SAY, YOU'RE IN REMARKABLE SHAPE FOR SOMEONE WHO WAS TRAPPED UNDERGROUND FOR A MONTH.

IN FACT, YOU'RE IN BETTER SHAPE THAN MOST OF THE EXECUTIVES I SEE IN THE HOSPITAL'S WELLNESS PROGRAM.

THANK YOU, DOCTOR, BUT I WAS PRETTY LUCKY. I HAD PLENTY OF FOOD AND WATER IN THAT SHELTER. AND I EXERCISED AS MUCH AS I COULD.

I GUESS I WAS JUST CERTAIN THAT SOMEONE WOULD FIND ME. I NEVER DREAMED OF GIVING UP-- I HAD TOO MUCH TO LIVE FOR.

FAR TOO MUCH.

AH, I SEE.

WELL, I STILL WISH THAT YOU'D LET US KEEP YOU UNDER OBSERVATION FOR A FEW DAYS, BUT WE CAN'T VERY WELL HOLD YOU AGAINST YOUR WILL.

S.T.A.R. LABS/ METROPOLIS...

HOW ARE WE DOING IN HERE, CONNOR?

LET'S NOT GO PULLING THE PLUG YET, PEOPLE. REMEMBER THE LESSON WE LEARNED FROM SUPERMAN'S REVIVAL! THIS IS NOT A NORMAL MAN WE'RE WORKING ON HERE.

IF YOU DEVELOP ANY PROBLEMS--!

I KNOW WHERE TO CALL, DOC. THANK YOU.

STILL NO RESPONSE, DR. FAULKNER. FRANKLY, I DON'T THINK WE'RE GOING TO GET ANY.

HE MAY LOOK HUMAN--

--BUT LOOKS ARE PROBABLY AS FAR AS IT GOES. ALL WE KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT HE WAS CAPABLE OF CHANNELING CONSIDERABLE ENERGY--

--AND THAT HE EXPENDED MOST OF HIS OWN SAVING SUPERMAN'S LIFE AT COAST CITY.* FOR THAT ALONE, WE OWE HIM OUR BEST EFFORTS.

I DON'T KNOW, KITTY...

...WE'VE BEEN TRYING ELECTRICAL STIMULATION--IN MICROSECOND BURSTS--AND GETTING NOWHERE.

*IN SUPERMAN #82

THEN LET'S UP THE VOLTAGE, DAVE.

ALL RIGHT, YOU'RE THE BOSS. BUT I STILL SAY THIS IS A WASTE OF OUR PRECIOUS TIME.

CONNOR

LOOK AT THESE MONITORS--THERE ARE FLAT LINES ACROSS THE BOARD! NO NEUROMUSCULAR RESPONSE, NO UNASSISTED RESPIRATION, AND NOT A SINGLE SOLITARY HEART--

BDEEP

--BEAT.

YOU WERE SAYING, DR. CONNOR?

SONUVAGUN. I DON'T BELIEVE IT, BUT HE'S ALIVE. THE ERADICATOR'S STILL ALIVE!

"WELL, NOW..."

... I THINK WE PULLED THAT OFF PRETTY WELL--DON'T YOU, LOIS?

HEH-HEH. YOU, MY FRIEND, WERE AMAZING.

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO ANSWER THAT DOCTOR'S QUESTIONS WITH SUCH A STRAIGHT FACE.

JUST ANOTHER OF MY MANY POWERS AND--

WHOOSH!

--ABILITIES.

OH!

I TAKE IT THAT EVERYTHING WENT WELL?

EXCEEDINGLY WELL! THE DOCTORS BOUGHT THE WHOLE STORY... THEY NEVER DOUBTED ME FOR A MOMENT.

THEN I'D SAY IT'S TIME WE ENDED THIS LITTLE CHARADE.

THAT'S MY WOMAN, KENT--AND I WANT HER BACK!

IS THAT SO?

WELL, I SAY WE LET LOIS DECIDE.

OKAY, I'VE DECIDED.

WHA--? HEY!

I WIN, EH?

I'D SAY THAT WE ALL WON. YOU'RE ALIVE AND WELL, CLARK KENT IS ALIVE AND WELL, AND THE WHOLE WORLD SAW THE TWO OF YOU ON CAMERA TOGETHER.

SOUNDS LIKE A PERFECT ARRANGEMENT.

ALMOST.

THERE'S JUST ONE THING...

YES--?

WHAT'S WITH THIS "YOUR WOMAN" STUFF, HMM?

HAH-HA-HA! THAT'S TELLING HIM, LOIS! DON'T LET ANYONE TAKE YOU FOR GRANTED--NOT EVEN SUPERMAN!

CLAP CLAP

HE'S RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING, THOUGH...

...IT IS TIME...

...THAT... WE... EHHN...

...ENDED... THE CHARADE...

...OR, SHOULD I SAY, THE MASQUERADE?

OWW! YES, I MUCH PREFER THIS SHAPE!

SUPERGIRL, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

I'D FORGOTTEN HOW PAINFUL YOUR TRANSFORMATIONS COULD BE.

HEY... NO SWEAT.

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?

WELL, THAT WASN'T SOMETHING THAT I'D WANT TO DO EVERY DAY... CHANGING SHAPE THAT RADICALLY IS A LOT TOUGHER THAN CHANGING HAIR OR SKIN COLOR...

...BUT FOR ONE OF MY FAVORITE COUPLES, I WAS GLAD TO DO IT. I WANT YOU TWO TO ALWAYS BE AS HAPPY AS LEX AND I ARE.

LEX... YES, WELL... I. UH, I RAN INTO LEX EARLIER TODAY...

...AND HE WASN'T TOO PLEASED--!

BY MY ABSENCES? I KNOW. HE *CAN* BE POSSESSIVE AT TIMES. I WISH HE WEREN'T, BUT... IT'S SOMETHING WE HAVE TO WORK OUT.

AND WE WILL. BUT FOR NOW...

...I'VE GOT TO RUN. TAKE GOOD CARE NOW, BOTH OF YOU.

YOU, TOO. AND THANKS AGAIN FOR EVERYTHING. YOU WERE GREAT!

MY PLEASURE! MAY WE ALL LIVE HAPPILY FOREVER AFTER!

"FOREVER AFTER"... THAT MAY APPLY TO YOU LITERALLY, CLARK.

YOU MIGHT WELL BE IMMORTAL.

LOIS, WE CAN'T KNOW THAT FOR CERTAIN.

THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY EASIER. YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW YOU CAME BACK... FROM THE DEAD.

IT'S NO LESS FRUSTRATING FOR ME, HONEY.

I REMEMBER FIGHTING DOOMSDAY, AND THEN... NOTHING. THERE'S JUST THIS GRAY HAZE, LIKE A FORGOTTEN MEMORY OF A DREAM.

YOU KNOW... WHEN YOUR FATHER HAD HIS HEART ATTACK, HE WAS COMATOSE FOR A WHILE. AND HE WOKE UP CONVINCED THAT HE'D MET YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE AND MADE YOU FIGHT YOUR WAY BACK.

PA! GOOD LORD!

WE STILL HAVE TO CALL HIM AND MA AND LET THEM KNOW THAT CLARK IS OFFICIALLY ALL RIGHT.

OF COURSE.

CLARK?

WHAT, HON?

I'VE BEEN THINKING... MAYBE YOU DIDN'T REALLY DIE.

MAYBE YOU CAN'T DIE.

OH, HE CAN DIE, ALL RIGHT...

EH?

"... HE'S JUST VERY HARD TO KILL.

WHA--?! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY APARTMENT?! WHERE ARE WE?

OCCULT! I HOPED THAT I'D SEEN THE LAST OF YOU! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

SUPERMAN... YOU KNOW "SAM SPADE" HERE?

I'M AFRAID SO. HE CALLS HIMSELF *DOCTOR OCCULT*, AND HE'S SOME SORT OF MYSTIC DETECTIVE. I MET HIM DURING MY FIRST YEAR AS SUPERMAN.

HE LED ME INTO MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE SUPERNATURAL...

"... IT WAS AN EXPERIENCE I REALLY COULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT.*"

*REMIND US TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT SOMEDAY!

HE DISAPPEARED AFTER THAT.

I THOUGHT THAT I WAS RID OF HIM.

DOCTOR... OCCULT? YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

I KNOW IT SOUNDS A LITTLE MELODRAMATIC, MS. LANE, BUT IT SUITS ME. BESIDES, IT'S REALLY MORE OF A TITLE OR JOB DESCRIPTION THAN A NAME...

...MUCH AS KENT HERE IS KNOWN AS SUPERMAN--THANKS TO YOU, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN.

WHO IS THIS GUY, AND HOW DOES HE KNOW SO MUCH?

I WISH I KNEW. ALL I COULD UNCOVER ABOUT HIM WAS A BRIEF MENTION IN THE *DAILY PLANET'S* ARCHIVES... FROM A STORY DATING BACK TO 1935!

THERE'S NO NEED TO WHISPER. MY BUSINESS DEPENDS UPON MAINTAINING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF MY CLIENTS.

I THOUGHT I COULD HELP YOU, THAT'S ALL.

OH? AND WHAT WILL IT COST US?

GOOD QUESTION, MS. LANE. THE FEE *CAN* BE HIGH--

--AND DEARER THAN EITHER OF YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE!

KLIK

BUT I'VE ALREADY PAID THE PRICE FOR YOU... I PAID IT IN FULL LONG AGO.

CLARK, WHAT'S GOING ON? I FEEL...SO STRANGE!

SO DO I...

OCCULT, I'M WARNING YOU-- IF YOU'VE PLACED LOIS IN ANY DANGER--!

DANGER IS WHAT LIFE'S ABOUT, SUPERMAN-- BUT YOU TWO SHOULD COME THROUGH THIS ALL RIGHT-- IF YOU STAY CLOSE AND DO AS I SAY.

NOW, WHERE'S THAT FLASHLIGHT? AH, HERE IT IS...

KLITCH

...NOW, I BELIEVE YOU AND MS. LANE BOTH WANTED TO KNOW HOW YOU MANAGED TO COME BACK FROM THE BEYOND.

TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT, WE HAVE TO START AT THE BEGINNING...WITH YOUR FIGHT AGAINST DOOMSDAY.

WHAT--? YOU'VE TAKEN US BACK INTO THE PAST?

"...THE EFFECTS OF THE PAST, AFTER ALL, ARE ALWAYS WITH US."

:ARRGGH!:

CLARK! WHAT'S WRONG?!

I...I'M OKAY. JUST FELT LIKE... SOMETHING KNOCKED THE STUFFING OUT OF ME.

ANOTHER EFFECT OF THE PAST, I'M AFRAID. AS WE GO ALONG THE PATH, YOU'LL RELIVE THE ORDEAL...

...WITH LUCK, IT'LL BE EASIER THE SECOND TIME AROUND.

NOT EXACTLY. IT'S MORE LIKE WE'RE OFF TO ONE SIDE OF TIME. IT JUST MAKES PREVIOUS EVENTS EASIER TO SEE...

YOU MONSTER! I THOUGHT YOU SAID THAT YOU HAD PAID THE PRICE--?!

IT'S THE JOURNEY THAT'S ON ME, MS. LANE. PAIN IS JUST THE PRICE OF LIVING.

ONLY THE DEAD FEEL NO PAIN...

...REMEMBER?

PLEASE HANG ON! THE PARAMEDICS WILL BE HERE ANY SECOND! PLEASE!

DOOMSDAY... IS HE... IS HE...

YOU STOPPED HIM! YOU SAVED US ALL! NOW RELAX UNTIL--!

SUPERMAN? SUPERMAN!!

NO PAIN NOW, IS THERE?

YOU PUT UP A HELL OF A FIGHT, SUPERMAN... BUT SO DID DOOMSDAY. HE WORE YOU DOWN TO THE POINT OF DEATH, AND YOU SACRIFICED YOURSELF TO STOP HIM.

BUT EVEN AFTER ALL THAT, THERE WAS STILL RESIDUAL ENERGY IN YOUR BODY. EVEN AS YOUR SPIRIT WAS DEPARTING, THAT KRYPTONIAN BODY OF YOURS WAS SOAKING UP MORE ENERGY FROM THE SUN...

...NOT FAST ENOUGH TO SAVE YOUR LIFE, BUT ENOUGH TO SLOW YOUR DEATH.

AND THEN, YOU GOT A LITTLE HELP FROM THE PARAMEDICS... AND FROM OTHERS.

FIRE UP YER ENERGY GIZMO, PERFESSER. I'M READY FOR DA FIRST ROUND!

ARE YOU CERTAIN THAT YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING INTO, BIBBO?

HEY, NO ONE'S GONNA MISS A PUG LIKE ME IF THINGS GO BAD--

WOOOMPH!!

GYAAAH!

MY FLASH--!

THE HELL WITH YOUR FLASH!

THIS IS KILLING HIM ALL OVER AGAIN!

YOU'VE GO TO STOP THIS--NOW!

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, MS. LANE. ONCE WE'VE STARTED DOWN THIS ROAD, THERE CAN BE NO DETOURS--WE HAVE TO SEE THINGS THROUGH TO THE END.

AND I'LL NEED MY FLASH IF WE'RE EVER GOING TO GET THERE...

"...GO GET IT FOR ME... PLEASE! I'LL TEND TO SUPERMAN."

HOW CAN I TRUST HIM TO LOOK AFTER CLARK, WHEN HE CAN'T EVEN HOLD ONTO A SIMPLE FLASHLIGHT? BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.

HMMPH! IT ROLLED A LOT FARTHER THAN I'D HAVE THOUGHT. NOW WHAT'S THIS? IT SEEMS ALMOST FAMILIAR...

OMIGOD! CLARK'S COFFIN--!

I'M SORRY THAT YOU HAD TO SEE THIS, MS. LANE.

BETTER GIVE ME THAT FLASH.

H-HE'S DEAD.

NO... NOT ANYMORE.

THIS IS PART OF THE PAST. BELIEVE ME, I DIDN'T WANT TO PUT YOU THROUGH THIS...

... BUT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND JUST HOW CLOSE HE CAME TO FINAL, IRREVERSIBLE DEPARTURE.

MAKE NO MISTAKE, HIS SPIRIT HAD FLED HIS BODY. THE ENERGIES STORED WITHIN THE BODY PRESERVED IT TEMPORARILY--

--STILL, SEALED OFF IN THAT TOMB, IT WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE PERISHED. AND THEN, THERE COULD HAVE BEEN NO RETURN.

CLARK!

L-LOIS?

F-FEEL SO COLD... ALMOST NUMB.

WITH HIS BODY IN THAT NULL STATE, HIS SPIRIT WAS TRAPPED BETWEEN THE LIVING AND THE DEAD... AND BECAME PREY FOR ALL MANNER OF DEMONS.

HE NEEDED THE LIGHT OF THE *SUN*, NOT THE DARK OF THE GRAVE.

YOU SAID YOU COULDN'T STOP THIS, BUT... CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING?!

WHAT'S DONE IS DONE, MS. LANE.

FORTUNATELY, THERE WERE OTHER FORCES AT WORK, AS WELL...

"...FORCES FOR GOOD. JONATHAN KENT HAD SUFFERED CARDIAC ARREST, AND HIS SPIRIT REACHED OUT TO SUPERMAN'S.

"JONATHAN HELPED HIS SON RESIST THE DEMONS...AND CONVINCED SUPERMAN TO FIGHT HIS WAY BACK TO THE LIVING.

"JONATHAN'S AID CAME NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON. SUPERMAN'S ESSENCE RETURNED TO HIS PHYSICAL FORM... JUST AS THE DISEMBODIED INTELLIGENCE OF THE ERADICATOR SOUGHT TO CLAIM IT.

"HE REMOVED SUPERMAN FROM THE TOMB AND PLACED HIM WITHIN A KRYPTONIAN REGENERATION MATRIX, WHERE HE WAS ABLE TO ABSORB THE RESTORING ENERGIES OF EARTH'S SUN.

"...BUT IN THE END, HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF-- IN MIND, IF NOT IN BODY--

YES, I AM RESTORED. THE PAIN, THE COLD, EVERYTHING HAS PASSED. I FEEL STRONGER THAN EVER.'

ARE YOU SAYING... IF SUPERMAN IS EVER ABOUT TO ...TO DIE AGAIN... ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS MAKE SURE HE GETS PLENTY OF SUN--?

"DENIED THE BODY, THE ERADICATOR STILL TAPPED INTO ITS STORED ENERGIES AND USED THEM TO TRANSMUTE MATTER WITHIN THE TOMB INTO A NEW FORM FOR HIMSELF.

"TRUE, THE ERADICATOR STOLE SOME OF THOSE ENERGIES AND ASSUMED THE ROLE OF SUPERMAN...

"AND THEN, HE SAVED SUPERMAN'S LIFE.

NO, IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. SUPERMAN WAS VERY LUCKY... THIS TIME.

NEVER FORGET, HIS SPIRIT *HAD* LEFT THE BODY. A WHOLE CHAIN OF EVENTS--PHYSICAL AND METAPHYSICAL--COMBINED WITH THINGS BOTH OF THE EARTH AND OF KRYPTON TO RESTORE HIM TO LIFE...

...AND SOME OF THOSE ELEMENTS NO LONGER EXIST. YOUR WILL TO LIVE IS STRONG, SUPERMAN, BUT YOUR RESURRECTION IS NOT A REPEATABLE PHENOMENON. YOU ARE *MORTAL*, AND SOMEDAY YOU WILL DIE... AS MUST WE ALL.

BUT FOR NOW, YOU *LIVE*. MAY IT BE A LONG LIFE, SUPERMAN!

MAY YOU BOTH KNOW MUCH LOVE AND HAPPINESS, BEFORE THAT FINAL SLEEP.

WHAT--?!

CLARK? WHERE ARE WE *NOW*? YOU...

...YOUR CLOTHING!

IT MUST BE OCCULT'S IDEA OF A PARTING GIFT.

WAIT A MINUTE. I THINK I RECOGNIZE THIS AREA.

COME ON...

WHY... THAT'S YOUR PARENTS' FARM! WE'RE IN KANSAS.

THANKS, DOC. THIS IS ONE I OWE YOU.

LOOKS LIKE THE FOLKS ARE HOME, TOO...

MARTHA, I'M NOT A TOTAL INVALID-- I COULD'VE FIXED THAT TRUCK DOOR!

YOU JUST HUSH, JONATHAN. I CAN HANDLE A TORCH JUST AS WELL AS YOU!

WHAT IN TARNATION? IS THAT A DUST DEVIL TEARING ACROSS THE FIELD OR--?

NO... IT'S CLARK... AND LOIS!

OUR BOY'S COME BACK TO US AT LAST!

"I AM PART OF THE SUN, AS MY EYE IS PART OF ME. THAT I AM PART OF THE EARTH MY FEET KNOW PERFECTLY, AND MY BLOOD IS PART OF THE SEA.

"MY SOUL KNOWS THAT I AM PART OF THE HUMAN RACE... AS MY SPIRIT IS PART OF MY NATION.

"IN MY VERY OWN SELF, I AM PART OF MY FAMILY."
--DAVID HERBERT LAWRENCE, 1931.

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WE HAVE VOWED TO MAKE WESTFIELD PAY.

HAVE YOU?

I HAVE WEAKENED THE *SOCIAL STRUCTURE* OF NEW YORK... BERLIN ... LONDON.

SARAJEVO IS IN EVEN *GREATER* TURMOIL. SUCH *SUCCESS.*

AND METROPOLIS WAS A POISONED CAULDRON, ABOUT TO BOIL OVER.

WHAT DO YOU *WANT* HERE?

REVENGE.

REVENGE. ON *WHOM?* AND *WHY?*

BUT, NO LONGER. *LEX LUTHOR* HAS RETURNED, ALBEIT IN ANOTHER GUISE, AND METROPOLIS IS CONTENTED.

AND A HAPPY POPULACE DOES NOT *MAKE WAR.*

LIVES

A PRIVATE CELEBRATION TO WELCOME HIM BACK FRIDAY

LEX ...PPELIN AIRDOCK

EXCEPT FOR THESE *UNDER-WORLDERS*... WHO ARE ANYTHING *BUT* SANGUINE.

YET... HOW FAR WILL THEY GO TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR *REVENGE?*

THERE IS A WAY. AS YOU SEE, THERE WILL BE A PRIVATE *PARTY* ABOARD THE LEXCORP BLIMP.

WESTFIELD WILL BE AMONG THE GUESTS AS IT FLOATS OVER METROPOLIS.

I CAN HELP YOU *DESTROY* THAT BLIMP. AND WESTFIELD WILL *DIE.*

PROJECT CADMUS'S *COMMANDER WESTFIELD* FLOODED OUR *UNDERWORLD* BENEATH METROPOLIS.

OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES *DIED* HERE.

BUT... INNOCENT *PEOPLE* WILL DIE, TOO!

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SO--THE PATHETIC DREGS OF *UNDERWORLD* DARE NOT SEEK JUSTICE?

WESTFIELD, A *HUMAN*, TRIED TO DESTROY YOU AND YET YOU QUIBBLE AT THE DEMISE OF A FEW OF *HIS* KIND?

A *WEAKLING'S* OBJECTION!

SPQUAT!!

YOU ARE NOT *WORTHY*... FOR YOU MUST BE WILLING TO *SACRIFICE* ALL TO GAIN YOUR OBJECTIVES.

YOUR *HEARTS*... YOUR *HONOR*... YOUR VERY *SOULS*.

BAD CHARACTER

LOUISE SIMONSON STORY | JON BOGDANOVE PENCILLER | DENNIS JANKE INKER | BILL OAKLEY LETTERER | GLENN WHITMORE COLORIST | FRANK PITTARESE ASSOCIATE ED. | MIKE CARLIN EDITOR

SUPERMAN Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR HELP, WE WILL DESTROY THE MAN WHO SOUGHT TO BLOT OUT OUR *EXISTENCE*.

W-WE ARE WILLING TO DO *ANYTHING*!

NOTHING MATTERS EXCEPT THAT WESTFIELD PAYS!

IF THAT IS SO, THEN I WILL *AID* YOU.

DEVICES I SHALL IMPLANT WILL *DISGUISE* YOUR TRUE IDENTITIES AND LET YOU *BOARD* LEX LUTHOR'S BLIMP *UNHINDERED*.

OTHER IMPLANTS WILL ENHANCE YOUR *INBORN* ABILITIES.

WESTFIELD WILL *DIE* IN YOUR ATTACK AND THE *BLIMP* WILL BE *DEMOLISHED*.

AND *LUTHOR*, WHO HOLDS METROPOLIS SAFE AND SECURE, WILL BE DESTROYED *WITH* IT!

NO PIE?

IT'S DIET JELLO, PA. NO SUGAR-- AND NO FAT!

IT'S GOT FRUIT IN IT, THOUGH.

MAYBE YOU COULD THINK OF IT AS PIE WITH A WIGGLY CRUST, JONATHAN!

LOIS, HONEY, STOP! CLARK SAID HE'LL DO THE DISHES AT SUPER-SPEED!

I'M JUST PUTTING THEM IN TO SOAK, MARTHA!

POOR JONATHAN DOESN'T ADJUST TO LIFESTYLE CHANGES VERY EASILY, DOES HE?

IT'S LIKE LIVING WITH A BEAR, BUT HIS CHOLESTEROL IS COMING DOWN.

WHEN HE HAD THAT HEART ATTACK, I WAS SO SCARED I'D LOSE HIM. IT'S LIKE WE'VE BEEN GIVEN A NEW LEASE ON LIFE.

YOU'VE LOST A FEW POUNDS TOO, HAVEN'T YOU?

JONATHAN'S DIET HAS BEEN GOOD FOR BOTH OF US. AND I'M THINKING OF CUTTING MY HAIR.

JONATHAN WILL HAVE A COW, BUT...

IT'S YOUR HAIR. YOU KNOW, I'M GETTING MY HAIR CUT, TOO.

A BRAND-NEW CAPE! THANKS, MA!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT A PLEASURE THIS IS. I WAS CERTAIN I'D LOST YOU, TOO!

FORTY YEARS ... PIE EVERY SUNDAY... AND NOW SHE'S GONNA CUT HER HAIR...

"... BUT AT LEAST WE HAVE CLARK BACK."

WHEN WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD, YOUR PARENTS AND I GAVE UP YOUR APARTMENT.

I'M SORRY, CLARK. IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY TO FIND A NEW ONE.

AT LEAST I HAVE PEOPLE TO STAY WITH. LOTS OF FOLKS ARE ON THE STREETS.

DOOMSDAY DESTROYED WHOLE NEIGHBOR-HOODS.

AND HE NEARLY DESTROYED YOU. PROMISE ME YOU'LL BE CAREFUL.

IT'S FUNNY. WHEN YOU WERE GONE, I COULD HARDLY MAKE MYSELF GET UP IN THE MORNING.

IT WAS ALMOST LIKE I HAD DIED WITH YOU.

NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK, I FEEL LIKE I'VE RETURNED TO LIFE AS WELL.

I... JUST DON'T THINK I COULD BEAR TO LOSE YOU AGAIN.

BOG JANK

CLARK, LOOK, AN *INVITATION!*

LEX LUTHOR II IS HAVING A *BASH* ON HIS *BLIMP* TO WELCOME BACK SUPERMAN...

...AND ANNOUNCE THAT THAT HE'S CREATING A FUND IN SUPERMAN'S NAME FOR THOSE INJURED BY DOOMSDAY.

REMEMBER YOUR *FIRST MEETING* WITH LEX SENIOR...

...WHEN HE LET THAT ATTACK ON HIS YACHT *PROCEED* IN ORDER TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION?

I REMEMBER THE *PASS* HE MADE AT YOU.

THANK HEAVEN HIS *SON* ISN'T LIKE THAT. I CAN BRING A *GUEST*. WANNA GO?

WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE *WORLD*.

SUPERMAN LIVES

PARTY *SCHMARTY*. WHO FEELS LIKE PARTYING WITH *TANA* GONE?

SUPERMAN LIVES

AN *INVITATION* FROM LUTHOR?!

DOES THIS MEAN HE KNOWS I WAS THE *MAN OF STEEL*?

NOT THAT IT *MATTERS*. I'M *GIVING UP* THAT GIG.

WITH THE *REAL* SUPERMAN BACK, METROPOLIS DOESN'T NEED *ME* ANYMORE.

HI, HENRY! JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU...

...I'M *MOVING* TO THE *PSYCHICS INSTITUTION* IN ARLINGTON. SEE YOU IN *WASHINGTON*.

WASHINGTON?

ROSIE... WHAT MAKES YOU THINK *I'M* GOING TO WASHINGTON?

YO, PLANETEERS! CLARK KENT IS BACK!

RING! BRING!

LOIS SAID YOUR FOLKS CANCELLED YOUR LEASE. YOU WANNA ROOM WITH ME?

WHAT? THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. WHY WOULD LEXCORP DO THAT?

WELCOME BACK, SON! SORRY WE GAVE AWAY YOUR DESK. WE'LL FIND YOU SPACE... SOMEWHERE!

YEAH, IT SOUNDS LIKE INSURANCE FRAUD. I'LL CHECK IT OUT. THANKS.

I UNDERSTAND YOU LOST YOUR APARTMENT AS WELL. ALICE AND I HAVE A SPARE GUEST ROOM...

THANKS, PERRY. I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.

I'M JUST LUCKY MA AND LOIS HAVEN'T GIVEN AWAY MY TUX.

THAT'S RIGHT. LUTHOR'S BIG BASH! HE--

I'M OUTTA HERE, CHIEF! REMEMBER, CLARK! BE CAREFUL!

HI, CLARK! GREAT TO HAVE YOU BACK AT THE PLANET!

GREAT TO SEE YOU ALIVE!

GOTTA RUN, TOO, CHIEF!

HELP!

CAN'T LET LOIS SCOOP ME FIRST DAY BACK ON THE JOB!

HELP!

MAN, ALIVE! I'VE MISSED THIS!

DAILY PLANET

akk-- H-HELP!

HARD HAT! MUST'VE SLIPPED FROM THE BRIDGE WHILE CLEARING THE DEBRIS!

"...I'LL HAVE HIM OUT IN A MINUTE!"

LUNCH WHISTLE! GOOD!

LEX

CONSTRU

AND

ITIC

...ITS COLLAPSE BLAMED ON DAMAGE SUSTAINED DURING THE DOOMSDAY FIGHT...

...AND LEXCORP COLLECTED THE INSURANCE MONEY.

SPENT ALL MORNING RESEARCHING LEX-CORP'S CLAIMS AND CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES.

BUT THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A LITTLE HANDS-ON INVESTIGATION...

WHY WOULD A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR COMPANY INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN FRAUD LIKE THAT?

SURELY LUTHOR HIMSELF IS NOT AWARE OF WHAT'S GOING ON!

THIS BUILDING WAS BEGUN DURING METROPOLIS'S BOOM TIME...

...BUT MY CALLER IMPLIED THAT LEXCORP COULDN'T RENT EVEN HALF THE OFFICES.

THAT IT WAS A WHITE ELEPHANT. THE STRUCTURE WAS SECRETLY UNDERMINED...

BECAUSE ONE THING IS SURE. THIS GIRDER'S NOT BROKEN. IT'S MELTED.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY WEAKENED BY SOMEONE AT LEXCORP.

"AND IT LOOKS LIKE THIS ISN'T ALL THEY'VE BEEN UP TO!"

HELP! MY BABY! MY BABY'S IN THERE! I'VE GOT TO GET TO MY BABY!

BLOCK WAS NEARLY DEMOLISHED BY ONE OF DOOMSDAY'S EXPLOSIONS.

FIRE... IN THE SINGLE BUILDING LEFT STANDING.

HEY, LOOK! IT'S SUPERMAN! HE'LL SAVE TIMMY!

JOHN JOHNSON'S RIGHT! TIM WAS SICK... GETTING BETTER!

WENT DOWNSTAIRS TO RETURN THE VAPORIZER...

...WHOLE BUILDING BURST INTO FLAME!

THEY... DRAGGED ME OUT...

"... PLEASE, PLEASE SAVE HIM!"

KID'S ALIVE... COUGHING FROM THE SMOKE.

GAS EXPLOSION! RESIDUAL DAMAGE FROM THE DOOMSDAY FIGHT?

CAN'T CHECK IT OUT NOW! GOT TO GET THE KID OUT OF HERE...

BA-BOOM!

"...ON THE DOUBLE!"

LEXCO CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION CO.

I HAVE PROOF THAT SOMEONE DELIBERATELY DAMAGED THE SKYSCRAPER ON 53RD...

...BUT A SURPRISING NUMBER OF LEXCORP BUILDINGS ALSO SUSTAINED DAMAGE.

DAMAGE, HA! THAT'S 'CAUSE THOSE THINGS'RE MORE PROFITABLE DESTROYED 'CAUSE OF THE INSURANCE!

LIKE, FOR INSTANCE, IF THERE'S A SINGLE BUILDING STANDING IN A DAMAGED BLOCK, THEY'RE BURNING IT...

...AND CLAIMING STRUCTURAL DAMAGE FROM THE DOOMSDAY FIGHT CAUSED IT.

THERE'LL BE MORE PEOPLE HURT AND ON THE STREET. IT ISN'T RIGHT!

I CAN'T PROVE IT, MISS LANE, BUT--

JUST GET ME INSIDE, MILLIE...

"...AND I'LL GET THE PROOF."

THE TRAIL LEADS TO LEXCORP, ALL RIGHT. AND--

WHAT TIME IS IT?

LUTHOR'S PARTY! I ALMOST FORGOT! AND I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT--

"...WITH CYNDI!"

MY NEXT STEP IS TO INTERVIEW LUTHOR. I WOULDN'T ADMIT IT TO ANYONE, BUT I'M TORN.

LEX II HELPED ME GET CLARK'S BODY BACK FROM CADMUS.

HIS DAD WAS A ROTTER, AND I... I JUST DON'T WANT HIM TO BE A BAD GUY, TOO.

WELL, I'LL SEE HIM IN A COUPLE OF HOURS. I'LL TRY TO SET UP THE INTERVIEW...

"... ABOARD THE GONDOLA."

SO WHERE'S SUPERMAN, LUTHOR? WHERE'S THE GUEST OF HONOR?

I HAVE EVERY HOPE HE'LL BE HERE IF HE CAN, WESTFIELD. THE BENEFIT FUND WILL BE IN HIS NAME...

...BUT HE'S A BUSY MAN WHO CAN'T PREDICT WHEN OR WHERE HE'LL BE NEEDED.

"CONGRATULATIONS, JAMES," FRANKENSTERN SAID. HE ALWAYS CALLS ME "JAMES," RIGHT?

"YOUR PHOTO-JOURNALISTIC COVERAGE OF THE DOOMSDAY FIGHT WAS IMPRESSIVE...

"...AND, AS MUCH AS IT PAINS ME, YOU DESERVE A BONUS!"

HEY, COOL THE FRANKENSTERN IMPRESSIONS, JIMMY!

DON'T LOOK BEHIND YOU, BUT THE BOSS IS HERE!

A GOOD MOVE, INVOLVING THE PRESIDENT. YOU BLOCKED ME QUITE HANDILY FROM TAKING SUPERMAN'S BODY.

DID I, WESTFIELD? NO HARD FEELINGS, THEN?

SO WHERE IS SUPERGIRL?

SHE'S...ON A MISSION. IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...?

THE LAST TIME I SAW SUPERGIRL, SHE WAS FIGHTING THE ROBOT...

...THAT BROUGHT SUPERMAN BACK TO METROPOLIS... CURSE HIS INVULNERABLE HIDE.

NEWS REPORTS SAY SHE WAS WITH HIM IN ENGINE CITY... BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE SHE RETURNED TO METROPOLIS.

SHE'S AVOIDING ME. SHE KNOWS I'M ANGRY--

LEX...?

I'M... I'M BACK. I'M SORRY I HAD TO LEAVE... BUT I HAD TO HELP SUPERMAN.

I DID TELL YOU I WAS GOING TO ENGINE CITY. BUT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO LISTEN, AND--

SUPERGIRL! I CAN'T ALLOW HER TO WANDER OFF WHENEVER SHE CHOOSES.

I CAN'T REWARD HER BY WELCOMING HER BACK IMMEDIATELY. I'VE GOT TO TEACH HER A LESSON!

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU. I THOUGHT YOU CARED.

I... I DO, BUT--

YOU PICKED A FINE WAY OF SHOWING IT!

WOW!

I'M SORRY, LEX, BUT--

"WOW!" WHAT?

WOW!

TH-THAT'S LOIS?!?

L-LEX...?

EXCUSE ME!

WELCOME ABOARD MY LEXCORP BLIMP, LOIS.

YOU'RE LOOKING PARTICULARLY LOVELY TONIGHT!

MAY I HAVE THE FIRST DANCE?

IF YOU'LL GIVE ME AN APPOINTMENT TOMORROW...

...TO INTERVIEW YOU CONCERNING LEXCORP'S INVOLVEMENT IN INSURANCE IMPROPRIETIES.

WE CAN DO THE INTERVIEW TONIGHT IF YOU WISH, LOIS.

MY PENTHOUSE SUITE... AFTER THE PARTY...?

TOMORROW WILL BE FINE, LEX.

SURELY YOU DON'T BELIEVE UNSUBSTANTIATED RUMORS?

I'M AFRAID THIS TIME THEY'RE PRETTY WELL SUBSTANTIATED--

YOU TRIED TO DESTROY UNDERWORLD!

THAT'S WESTFIELD! BUT... WHO ARE THOSE GUYS HASSLING HIM--?

YOU THOUGHT WE WERE LESS THAN HUMAN.

SOON, YOU'LL BE--

--LESS THAN ALIVE!

BWHAM!

UNDERWORLDERS... TRICKED THEIR WAY ON BOARD, VIA SOME KIND OF CLOAKING DEVICE--

--THEIR ATTACK ON *WESTFIELD* THREATENING THE LIVES OF EVERYONE ON BOARD!

BLASTS ARE *RIPPING THROUGH* THE HELIUM-FILLED GAS BAGS INSIDE THE BLIMP'S ENVELOPE!

WE'RE NOT LIGHTER THAN AIR ANYMORE! WE'RE *FALLING*! JIMMY! HOLD *ON*!

BLAM!

NOT THE *FLOOR*, YOU IDIOTS!

BLAM!

MONSTERS-- INVADED MR. L'S PARTY! GOTTA *STOP* 'EM 'FORE THEY KILL US *ALL*!

BLAM!

GOT *WESTFIELD* IN MY SIGHTS! I--

NO!

BWHAM!

DAMN! SUPERGIRL WAS HURT... ANGRY! SHE *STORMED* OFF!

LEX!

IF I'M GOING TO LIVE, THAT ONLY LEAVES—

SUPERMAN! ABOUT T-TIME YOU DECIDED TO JOIN THE PARTY, MATE!

IT'S SUPERMAN!

HE'S TOO LATE! WESTFIELD IS MINE!

STAY HERE!

WHAK!

OUT OF THE WAY, WESTFIELD! MOVE IT!

SUPERMAN! BEHIND YOU!

KA-BOOM!

BLAM!

BYHAM!

THE FORWARD GAS BAGS!

THE GONDOLA! WE'RE FALLING!

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!

GOTCHA!

IT'S ALL THE SAME OLD *HEADACHES!* BUT WHY DOES IT FEEL *SO WONDERFUL* TO BE BACK?

WE SAW THE *EXPLOSIONS!*

SUPERMAN -- WHAT *HAPPENED?*

DON'T WORRY, JIMMY. CLARK'S IN THERE SOMEWHERE.

GENETICALLY ALTERED CLONES THOUGH WE ARE...

...WE BLEED AND DIE LIKE THE NATURALS IN METROPOLIS ABOVE.

S.C.U

JKB-143

CADMUS WRONGED US! BLOODTHIRST PROMISED US VENGEANCE! WESTFIELD MUST PAY!

THANK YOU, SUPERMAN. WITHOUT YOUR HELP, WELL-- WELCOME BACK-- AGAIN!

WHEN I HAD THIS LITTLE BASH TO WELCOME YOU BACK--

--AND ANNOUNCE THE RELIEF FUND I'VE CREATED IN YOUR NAME--

--I HOPED YOU'D MAKE A PERSONAL APPEARANCE.

BUT, FRANKLY, BOYO, I'VE NEVER BEEN SO GLAD TO SEE ANYONE IN MY LIFE!

...EXCEPT THAT HE SEEMED TRULY FRIGHTENED BY THE ORDEAL.

WOULD HE HAVE ENDANGERED HIMSELF TO GET ME TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE?

I DOUBT IT. HE MAY BE BRASH...

I'D ALMOST BELIEVE LEX STAGED THAT ATTACK TO GET ME TO SHOW FOR HIS PARTY...

"...BUT HE'S NOT LIKE HIS *FATHER.*"

WERE YOU AWARE OF ANY *WRONGDOING* BY ANY OF YOUR STAFF INVOLVING *INSURANCE FRAUD,* MR. LUTHOR?

CERTAINLY *NOT,* MISS LANE.

DID YOU ORDER THE *DEMOLITION* OF A BUILDING YOU OWNED ON BOLTON IN HOB'S BAY...

...THE ONLY BUILDING LEFT *STANDING* ON ITS BLOCK?

SUPERGIRL *DISOBEYED* MY DIRECT ORDER.

NOW LOIS HAS SHOWN ME THE *SHARP SIDE* OF HER TONGUE.

SUPERGIRL WAS DISTRAUGHT ABOUT THE ATTACK ON THE BLIMP. PERHAPS IT'S TIME I *FORGAVE* HER.

AS FOR *LOIS--*

LOIS, COME HERE. I WANT TO SHOW YOU MY METROPOLIS.

OUT THERE IS A CITY SCATTERED WITH *SHATTERED BUILDINGS,* HALF DESTROYED IN THE *DOOMSDAY DEBACLE.*

IN MY *MIND'S EYE,* I SEE THE CITY IT CAN BECOME... A *MONUMENT* OF STEEL AND GLASS... OF GLEAMING *SPIRES.*

I WILL MAKE THAT DREAM A *REALITY,* LOIS, BUT NOT BY STEPPING ON THE *LITTLE PEOPLE.*

NOT BY RUINING THEIR *HOMES* ...AND THEIR *LIVES.*

TRUST ME, LOIS. I HELPED YOU REGAIN *SUPERMAN'S BODY,* DIDN'T I?

I CAN CONTINUE TO BE OF HELP TO YOU...

THAT'S NOT WHAT I CAME FOR, LUTHOR, AND I GUESS YOU'VE ANSWERED MY QUESTIONS.

THANKS FOR THE INTERVIEW.

YOU CAN LEARN WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR COMPANY IN TOMORROW'S EDITION OF THE DAILY PLANET.

SELF-RIGHTEOUS WITCH. STILL, SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DAMAGE ME.

PERHAPS I SHOULD CALL HER BACK... APOLOGIZE...

CLIK!

HOW'D THE INTERVIEW GO, HON?

SHE'S MEETING SOMEONE. HER FIANCE. KENT.

I GOT MORE THAN I BARGAINED FOR. YOU EVER HEAR OF THE OLD SAYING...

"LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON"?

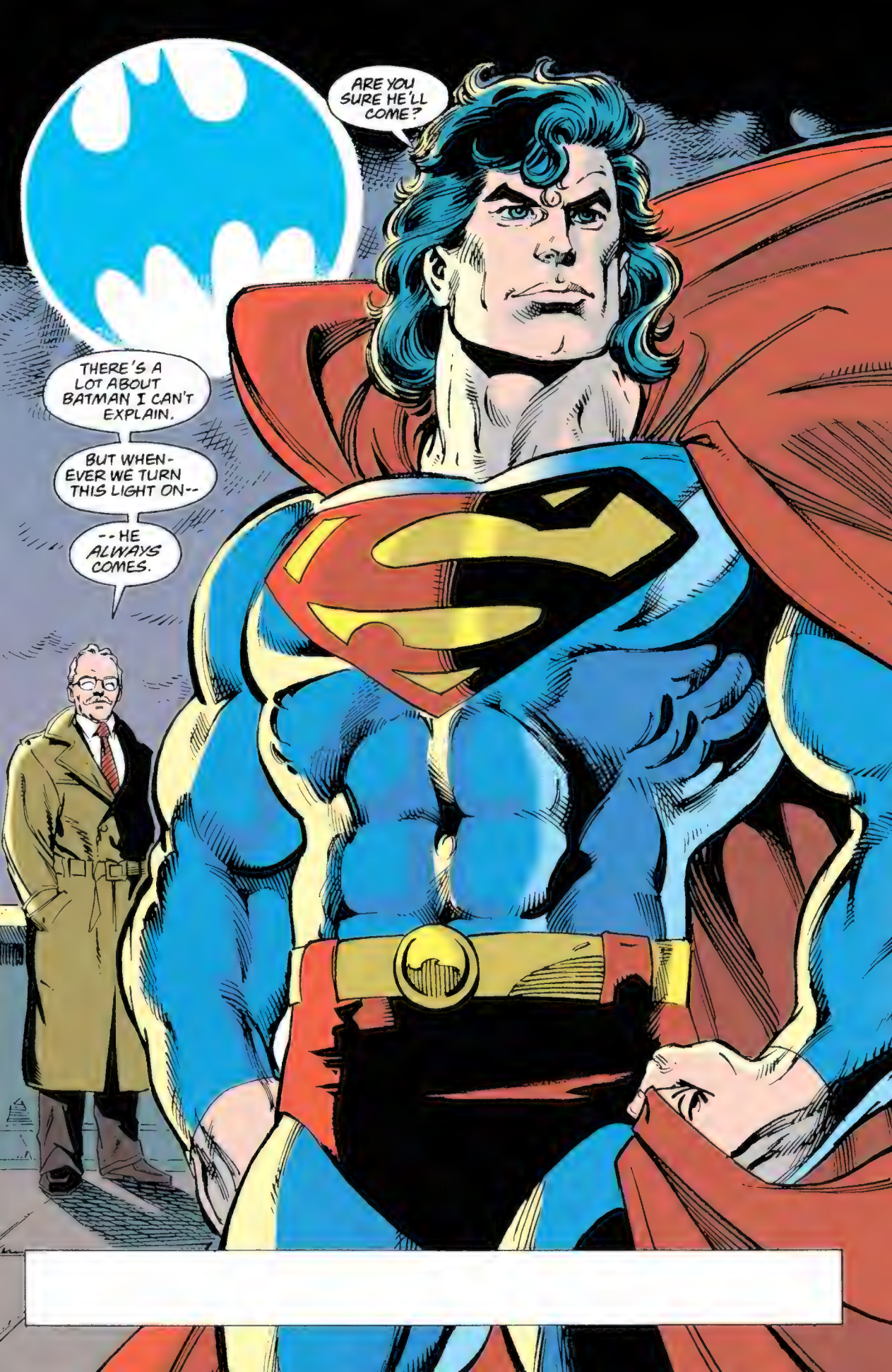
HOW DARE SHE QUESTION MY MOTIVES?

SHE'LL BE SORRY. I'LL MAKE HER SORRY!

HOW DARE SHE REJECT ME... THEN KISS THAT... NOBODY?

I'LL SEE HER BURN.

I'LL SEE THEM ALL BURN!


ARE YOU SURE HE'LL COME?
THERE'S A LOT ABOUT BATMAN I CAN'T EXPLAIN.
BUT WHEN-EVER WE TURN THIS LIGHT ON--
--HE ALWAYS COMES.

SEE WHAT I MEAN? HERE HE IS NOW.

I HEARD YOU WERE DRESSING DIFFERENTLY THESE DAYS, BATMAN. YOU SEEM... MORE THREATEN-ING.

SUPERMAN!

KNEW IT WOULDN'T BE LONG BEFORE *HE* CAME ALONG... CAN'T LET HIM REALIZE I'M NOT WHO HE THINKS I AM.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO GOTHAM?

IT'S TIME TO GO TO THE CEREMONY. CAN I GIVE YOU A LIFT?

CEREMONY.

WHAT CEREMONY?

I... SHOULD HAVE LET YOU KNOW THAT I'M BUSY. ON A CASE. CAN'T MAKE IT.

SORRY.

BUT THE ENTIRE JUSTICE LEAGUE IS GOING OUT TO TAKE CARE OF THE ENGINE CITY PROBLEM!

THAT'S NOT MY AREA OF EXPER-TISE. I'M SURE YOU CAN HANDLE IT--

--WITHOUT ME.

HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE BEGINS TO SUSPECT.

THAT VOICE... IF IT WASN'T FOR THE FULL MASK...

ON THE EDGE

DAN JURGENS . JOE RUBINSTEIN
Story & art *Finished art*
JOHN COSTANZA . GLENN WHITMORE
letterer *colorist*
FRANK PITTARESE . MIKE CARLIN
assoc. editor *editor*

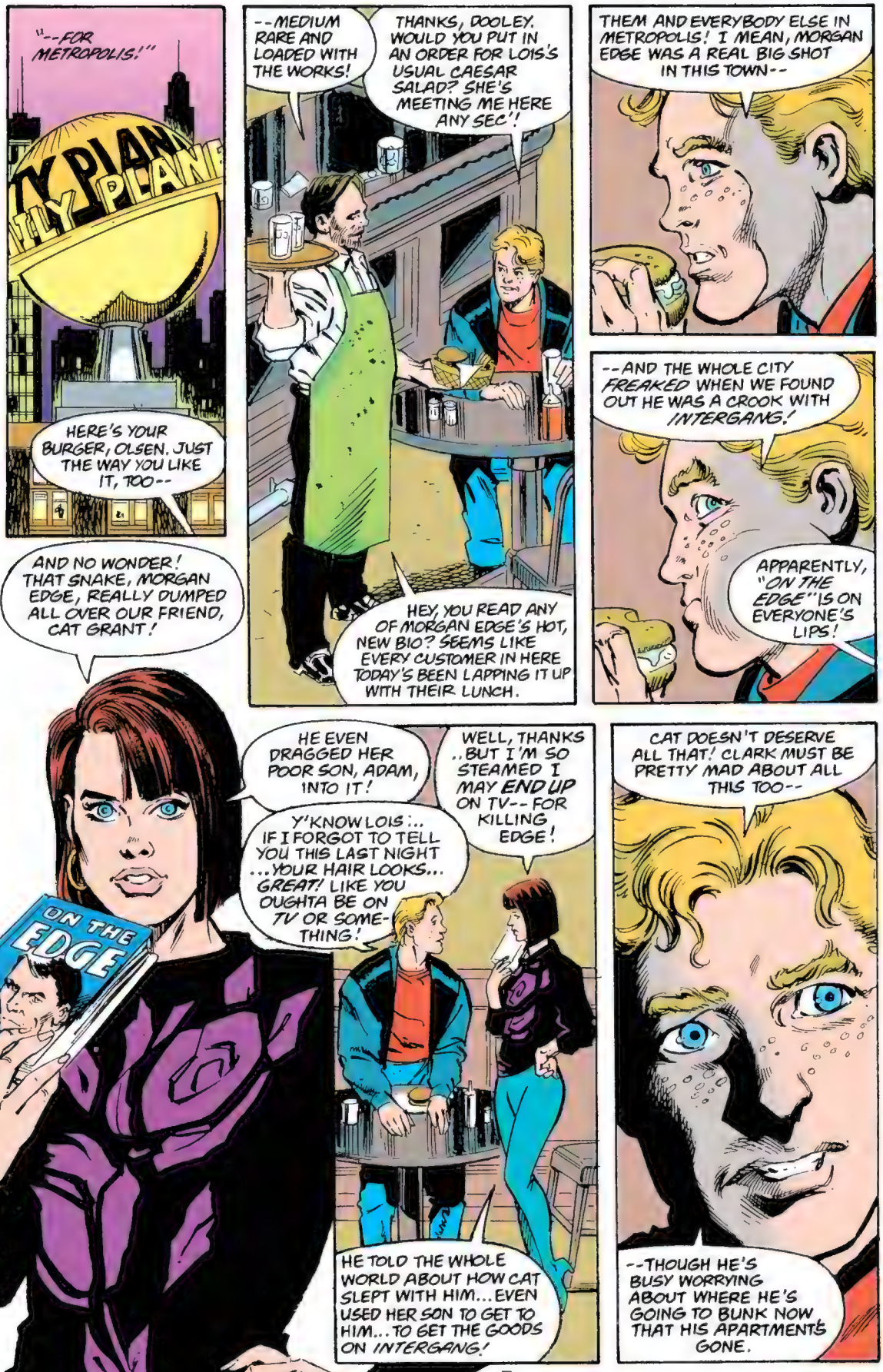
SUPERMAN created by SIEGEL and SHUSTER

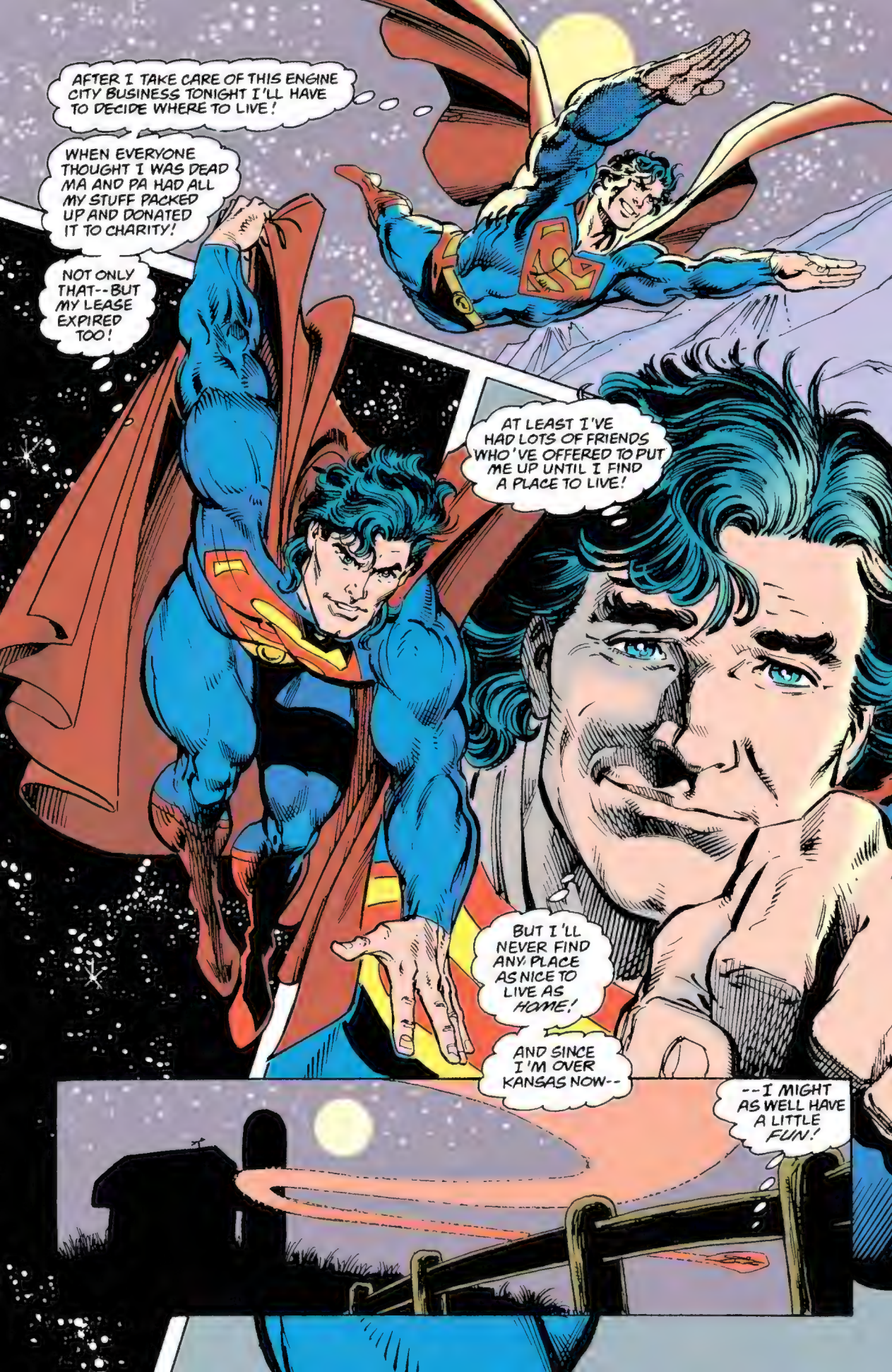
... MAYBE I SHOULD SCAN IT WITH X-RAY VI--

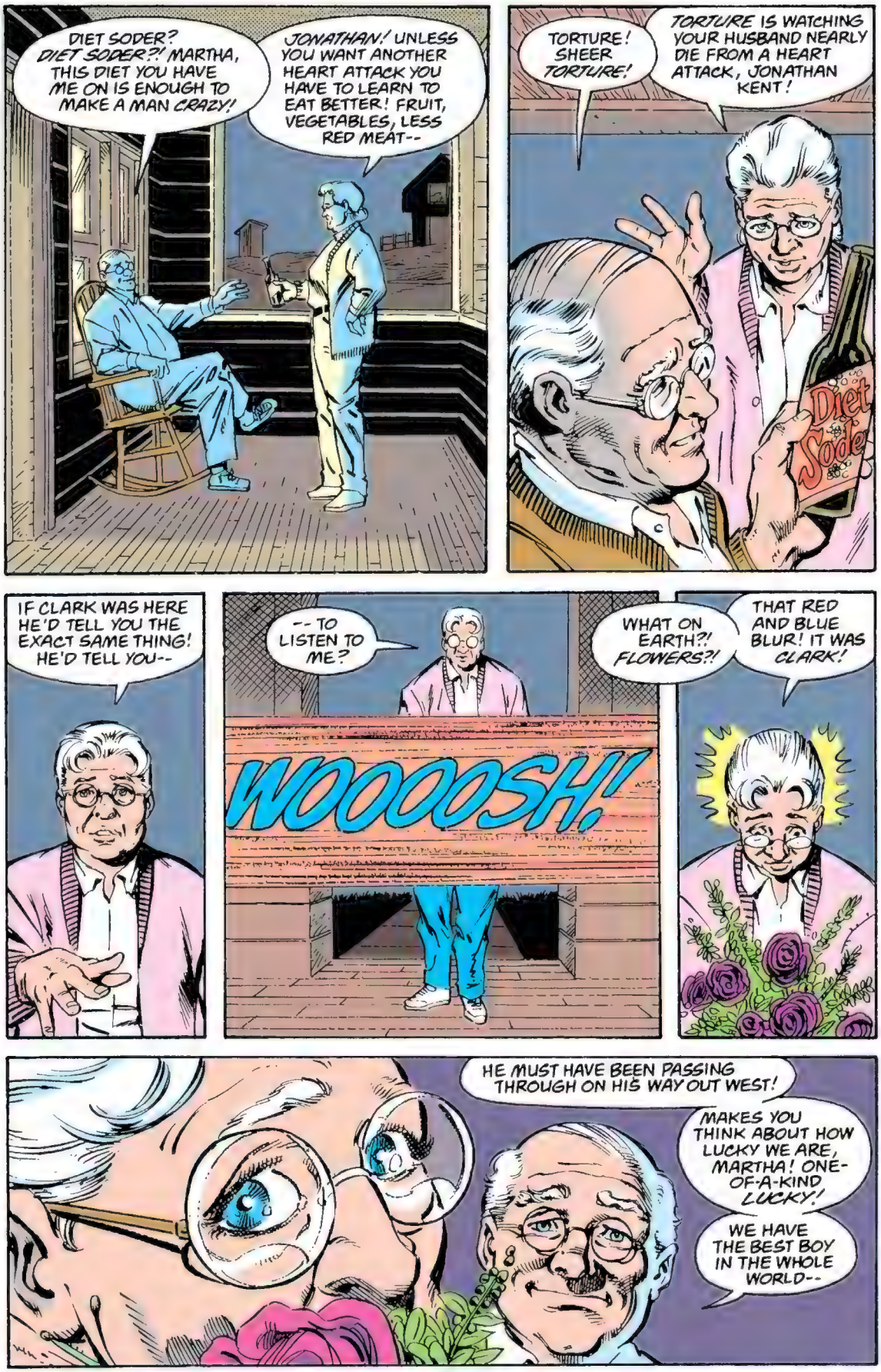
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, SUPERMAN?

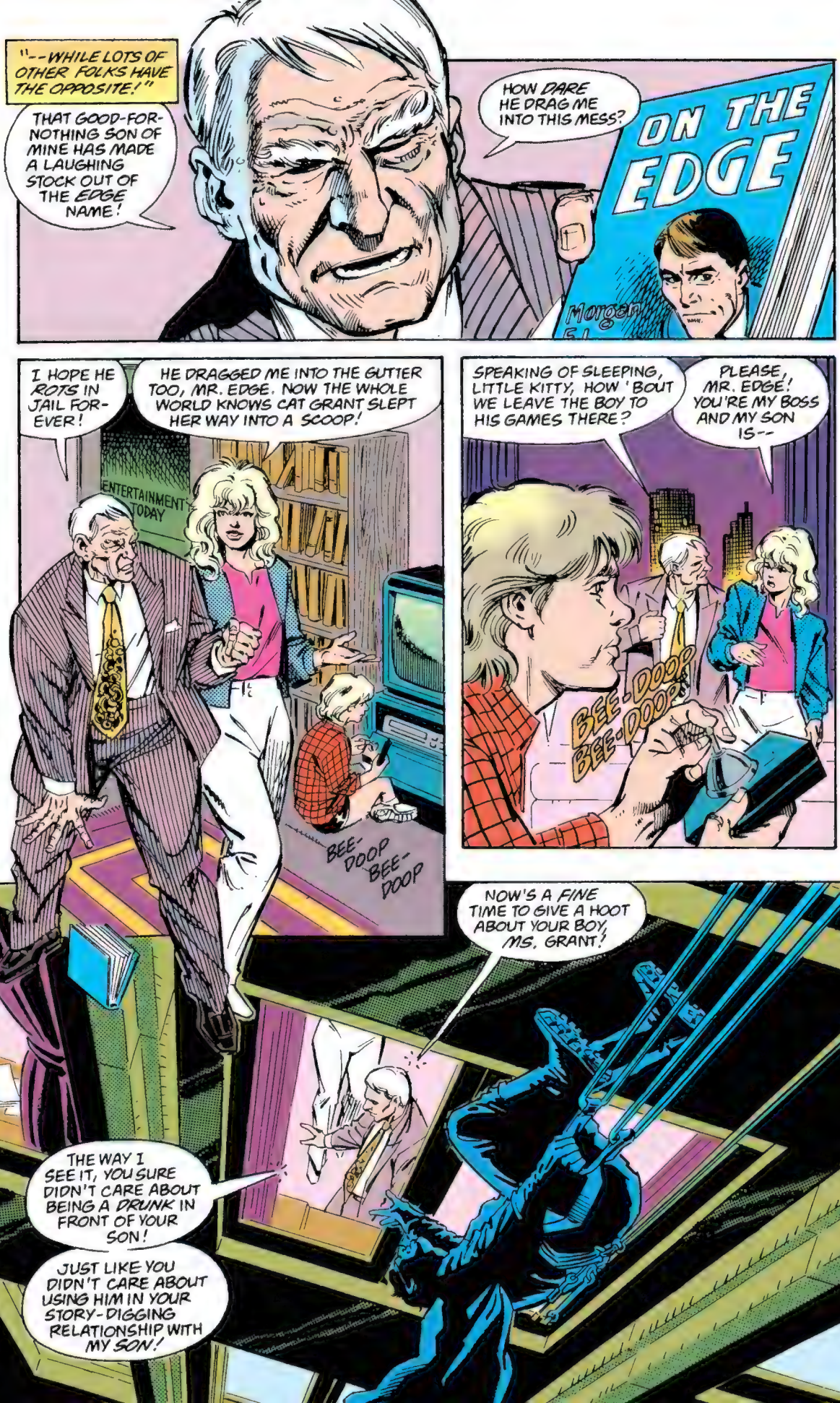
NO... JUST MY IMAGINATION, COMMISSIONER. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

WE'RE OVER ARIZONA NOW, MR. LUTHOR. WE SHOULD BE AT THE SITE IN LESS THAN TWO HOURS!
THANK YOU, CAPTAIN. ALERT ME WHEN WE ARRIVE.
I'VE BEEN SENDING SCOUT TEAMS INTO THE REMAINS OF ENGINE CITY EVER SINCE SUPERGIRL TOLD ME IT WAS POWERED BY KRYPTONITE!
AS YOU KNOW, OUR CHIEF OBJECTIVE IS TO SAVE THE ENGINE.
SURVEYS REVEAL THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE IS ON THE VERGE OF SLIPPING INTO THE PACIFIC OCEAN!
WOW. I GUESS OUR FIGHT THERE A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO WEAKENED IT MORE THAN I THOUGHT.
ACCORDING TO LEX, IF IT CRUMBLES INTO THE OCEAN, THE TOXIC PROPERTIES COULD POISON THE ENTIRE PACIFIC!
IT'S REALLY NICE OF YOU TO BE SO CONCERNED, LEX!
THANK YOU, DEAR SUPERGIRL.
AS ALWAYS, THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND MY ULTIMATE PLANS--
WE COULDN'T FIND A TRACE OF IT-- BUT THERE'S A CHANCE THE ENGINE'S COMPUTER CAN TELL *WHERE* TO FIND MORE-- OR *HOW* TO MAKE IT!
I *MUST* HAVE MORE *KRYPTONITE!*


"--FOR METROPOLIS!"
HERE'S YOUR BURGER, OLSEN. JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT, TOO--
--MEDIUM RARE AND LOADED WITH THE WORKS!
THANKS, DOOLEY. WOULD YOU PUT IN AN ORDER FOR LOIS'S USUAL CAESAR SALAD? SHE'S MEETING ME HERE ANY SEC'!
HEY, YOU READ ANY OF MORGAN EDGE'S HOT, NEW BIO? SEEMS LIKE EVERY CUSTOMER IN HERE TODAY'S BEEN LAPPING IT UP WITH THEIR LUNCH.
THEM AND EVERYBODY ELSE IN METROPOLIS! I MEAN, MORGAN EDGE WAS A REAL BIG SHOT IN THIS TOWN--
--AND THE WHOLE CITY FREAKED WHEN WE FOUND OUT HE WAS A CROOK WITH INTERGANG!
APPARENTLY, "ON THE EDGE" IS ON EVERYONE'S LIPS!
AND NO WONDER! THAT SNAKE, MORGAN EDGE, REALLY DUMPED ALL OVER OUR FRIEND, CAT GRANT!
ON THE EDGE
HE EVEN DRAGGED HER POOR SON, ADAM, INTO IT!
Y'KNOW LOIS... IF I FORGOT TO TELL YOU THIS LAST NIGHT ...YOUR HAIR LOOKS... GREAT! LIKE YOU OUGHTA BE ON TV OR SOMETHING!
WELL, THANKS ..BUT I'M SO STEAMED I MAY END UP ON TV-- FOR KILLING EDGE!
HE TOLD THE WHOLE WORLD ABOUT HOW CAT SLEPT WITH HIM... EVEN USED HER SON TO GET TO HIM... TO GET THE GOODS ON INTERGANG!
CAT DOESN'T DESERVE ALL THAT! CLARK MUST BE PRETTY MAD ABOUT ALL THIS TOO--
--THOUGH HE'S BUSY WORRYING ABOUT WHERE HE'S GOING TO BUNK NOW THAT HIS APARTMENT'S GONE.


AFTER I TAKE CARE OF THIS ENGINE CITY BUSINESS TONIGHT I'LL HAVE TO DECIDE WHERE TO LIVE!
WHEN EVERYONE THOUGHT I WAS DEAD MA AND PA HAD ALL MY STUFF PACKED UP AND DONATED IT TO CHARITY!
NOT ONLY THAT--BUT MY LEASE EXPIRED TOO!
AT LEAST I'VE HAD LOTS OF FRIENDS WHO'VE OFFERED TO PUT ME UP UNTIL I FIND A PLACE TO LIVE!
BUT I'LL NEVER FIND ANY PLACE AS NICE TO LIVE AS HOME!
AND SINCE I'M OVER KANSAS NOW--
--I MIGHT AS WELL HAVE A LITTLE FUN!


DIET SODER? DIET SODER?! MARTHA, THIS DIET YOU HAVE ME ON IS ENOUGH TO MAKE A MAN CRAZY!
JONATHAN! UNLESS YOU WANT ANOTHER HEART ATTACK YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO EAT BETTER! FRUIT, VEGETABLES, LESS RED MEAT--
TORTURE! SHEER TORTURE!
TORTURE IS WATCHING YOUR HUSBAND NEARLY DIE FROM A HEART ATTACK, JONATHAN KENT!
Diet Soder
IF CLARK WAS HERE HE'D TELL YOU THE EXACT SAME THING! HE'D TELL YOU--
-- TO LISTEN TO ME?
WOOOSH!
WHAT ON EARTH?! FLOWERS?!
THAT RED AND BLUE BLUR! IT WAS CLARK!
HE MUST HAVE BEEN PASSING THROUGH ON HIS WAY OUT WEST!
MAKES YOU THINK ABOUT HOW LUCKY WE ARE, MARTHA! ONE-OF-A-KIND LUCKY!
WE HAVE THE BEST BOY IN THE WHOLE WORLD--


"--WHILE LOTS OF OTHER FOLKS HAVE THE OPPOSITE!"
THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING SON OF MINE HAS MADE A LAUGHING STOCK OUT OF THE EDGE NAME!
HOW DARE HE DRAG ME INTO THIS MESS?
ON THE EDGE
I HOPE HE ROTS IN JAIL FOR-EVER!
HE DRAGGED ME INTO THE GUTTER TOO, MR. EDGE. NOW THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS CAT GRANT SLEPT HER WAY INTO A SCOOP!
ENTERTAINMENT TODAY
BEE-DOOP BEE-DOOP
SPEAKING OF SLEEPING, LITTLE KITTY, HOW 'BOUT WE LEAVE THE BOY TO HIS GAMES THERE?
PLEASE, MR. EDGE! YOU'RE MY BOSS AND MY SON IS--
BEE-DOOP BEE-DOOP
NOW'S A FINE TIME TO GIVE A HOOT ABOUT YOUR BOY, MS. GRANT!
THE WAY I SEE IT, YOU SURE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT BEING A DRUNK IN FRONT OF YOUR SON!
JUST LIKE YOU DIDN'T CARE ABOUT USING HIM IN YOUR STORY-DIGGING RELATIONSHIP WITH MY SON!

WE'RE OVER ENGINE CITY NOW, MR. LUTHOR! ANY ORDERS?
AMAZING! EVEN THOUGH I'VE SEEN THE PLACE ON VIDEO AND KNEW OF ITS SIZE--
--I NEVER EXPECTED IT TO BE SO... AWE-INSPIRING!
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO SAVE THIS PLACE, LEX? THE WAY IT'S FALLING APART--MAYBE IT'S FOR THE BEST!
REST ASSURED, DEAR SUPERGIRL, THAT IT'S IN OUR BEST INTERESTS TO HAVE ENGINE CITY SURVIVE.
OUR VERY BEST INTERESTS INDEED.
LOOK, LEX! I DON'T THINK WE'RE THE FIRST TO ARRIVE...

CIVILIANS? I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO BE ALONE HERE.

ME TOO. BUT THEN LUTHOR JUNIOR HAS A HABIT OF SHOWING UP WHERE HE'S NOT WANTED.

THIS IS A PRIVATE AFFAIR.

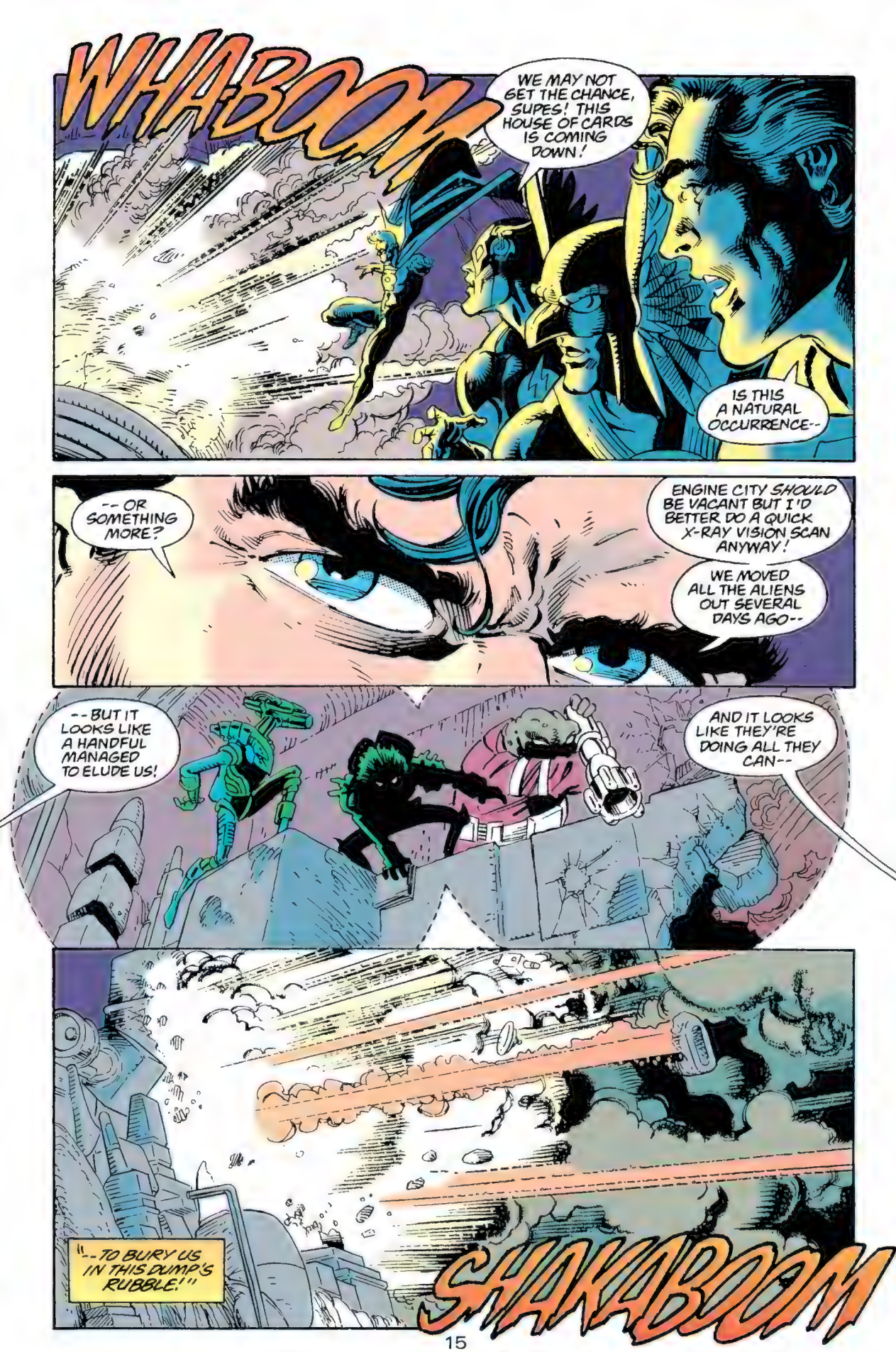
GET RID OF HIM.

I'M WITH GREEN LANTERN! ESCORT THIS SLIME BACK TO THE HOLE HE CRAWLED OUT OF.

OKAY, LUTHOR, WHAT BRINGS YOU TO ENGINE CITY?
WHY, I'M HERE TO SAVE IT, OF COURSE! MY RESEARCH INDICATES THIS ENTIRE STRUCTURE IS CRUMBLING INTO THE SEA!
TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW.
ONLY THE LIMITLESS CAPABILITIES OF LEXCORP CAN POSSIBLY SAVE IT, SUPERMAN.
SAVE IT?
I SAY LET IT DIE.
I NEVER EXPECTED THIS ARMADA OF SO-CALLED HEROES TO BE HERE! HAVE TO KEEP THEM AWAY FROM ME--
--SO I HAVE A CHANCE TO GET INSIDE AND FIND THE KRYPTONITE!
I'M SURPRISED YOU WANT THIS STRUCTURE GONE, GREEN LANTERN! AREN'T YOU THE LEAST BIT CURIOUS ABOUT ITS ALIEN TECHNOLOGIES?
HARDLY.
WE'RE HERE FOR ONE REASON AND ONE REASON ONLY!
TO BURY THIS ATROCITY IN THE PACIFIC FOR ALL ETERNITY!

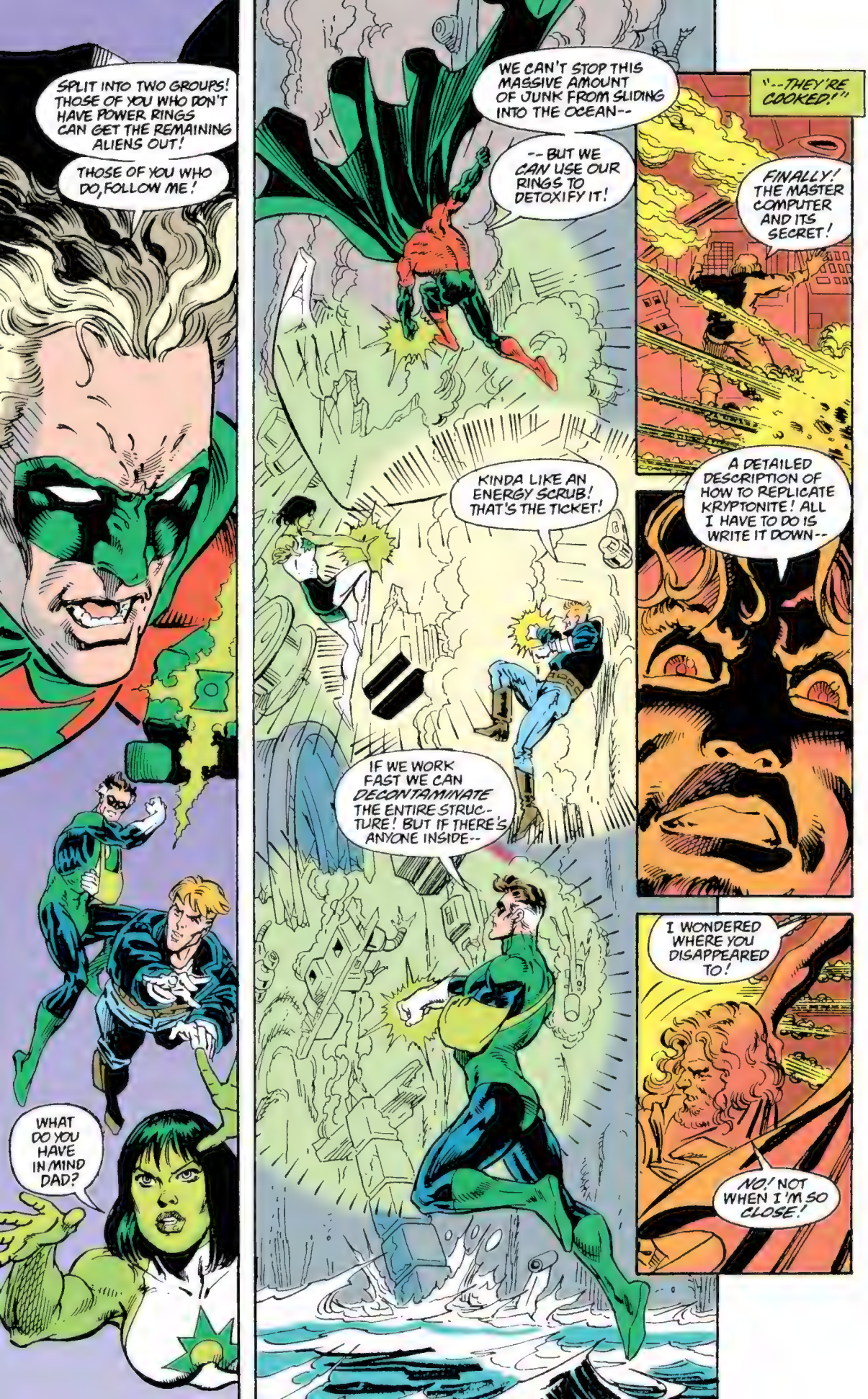
REALLY, GREEN LANTERN?
I DON'T RECALL ANY OF YOU CONSULTING WITH ME ABOUT THIS MOMENTOUS DECISION.
IF THIS IS AN ENGINE IT'S PROBABLY FILLED WITH HARMFUL ELEMENTS AND TOXIC WASTES.
WHOA! EVERYBODY GENUFLECT TO THE KING OF THE SEVEN SEAS!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS ABOUT DOING THIS.
DEADLY SERIOUS.
THIS ENGINE OF EVIL IS BUILT ON THE REMAINS OF SEVEN MILLION INNOCENTS.
THAT HARDLY JUSTIFIES DUMPING AN ENGINE THE SIZE OF LOS ANGELES INTO MY OCEAN, LANTERN!
THE LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS COULD BE AS DEADLY AS THE EXPLOSION THAT BIRTHED THIS PLACE!
MERCY! WE'LL BE GLAD TO LEAVE IT HERE WHERE IT CAN HARM SOME INSIGNIFICANT SURFACE DWELLERS--
--RATHER THAN HARM A FEW PRECIOUS FISHIES!

THAT'S ENOUGH, GUYS! LET'S TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO TALK--
NO! I'M TIRED OF TALKING!
A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO THIS WAS ONE OF THE MOST VITAL CITIES IN THE COUNTRY!
BUT MONGUL TOOK THAT AWAY-- ALONG WITH ALL THOSE INNOCENT LIVES--
--WHEN HE ATOMIZED COAST CITY!
MY *FRIENDS* ARE BURIED UNDER THIS JUNK HEAP AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET IT STAND AS THEIR *TOMBSTONE*!
WHILE THEY ARGUE I'VE GOT A CHANCE TO SLIP INSIDE!
OKAY. WE'LL COMPROMISE... SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE YOU BOTH HAPPY.

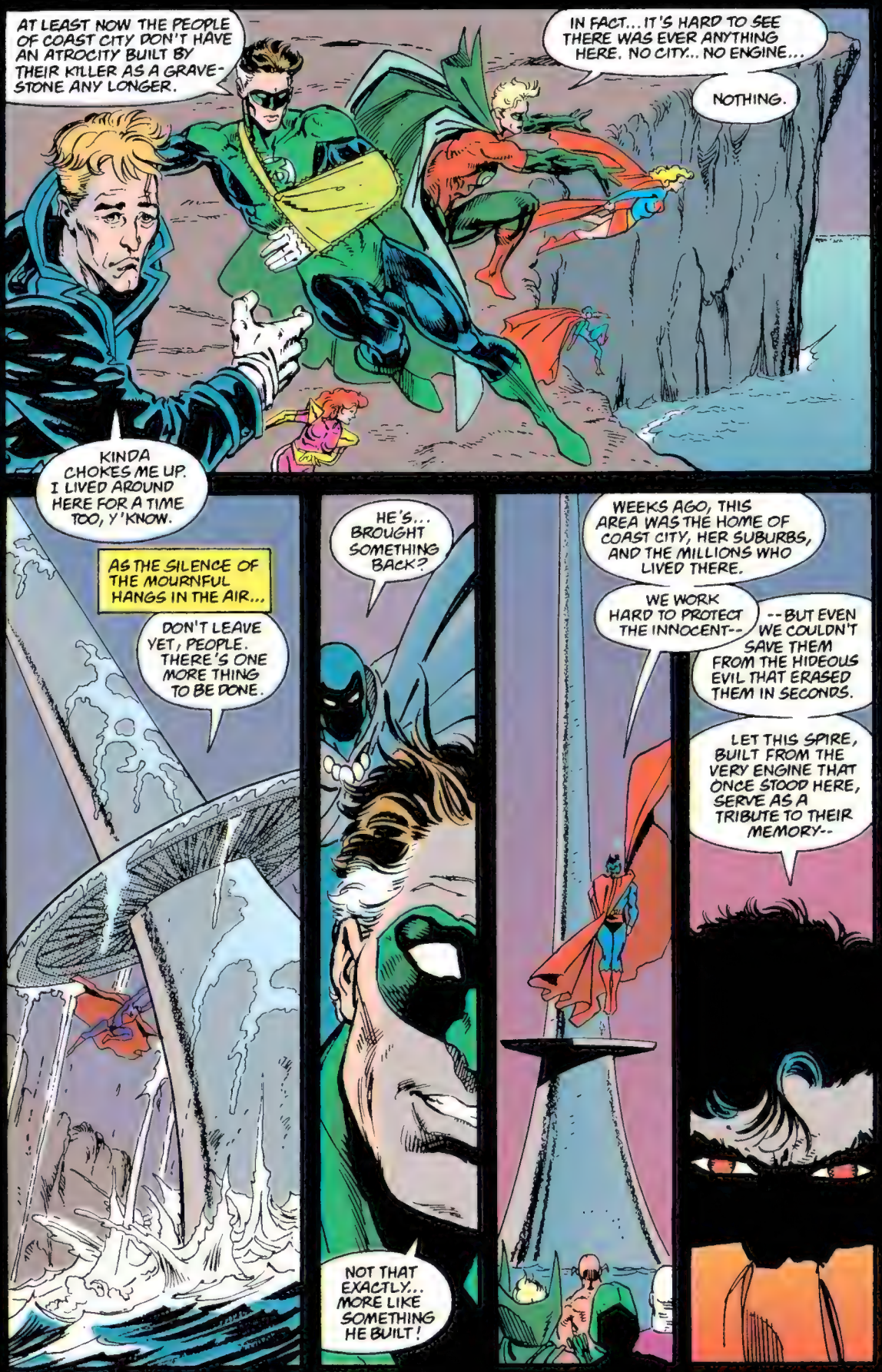

WHA-BOOM
WE MAY NOT GET THE CHANCE, SUPES! THIS HOUSE OF CARDS IS COMING DOWN!
IS THIS A NATURAL OCCURRENCE--
--OR SOMETHING MORE?
ENGINE CITY SHOULD BE VACANT BUT I'D BETTER DO A QUICK X-RAY VISION SCAN ANYWAY!
WE MOVED ALL THE ALIENS OUT SEVERAL DAYS AGO--
--BUT IT LOOKS LIKE A HANDFUL MANAGED TO ELUDE US!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE DOING ALL THEY CAN--
"--TO BURY US IN THIS DUMP'S RUBBLE!"
SHAKABOOM

BRAKOWW
SPLASSH
NO! THIS MASS OF DEBRIS AND TOXIC CHEMICALS IS GOING INTO MY OCEAN!
IT COULD POISON IT FOR YEARS!
HOLY MOLEY! WE BETTER DO SOMETHING QUICK!
SOUNDS LIKE TROUBLE UP THERE!
I MAY HAVE ONLY MINUTES TO FIND THE SECRET OF THIS PLACE'S KRYPTONITE!
WE'VE LOST CONTROL OF THIS SITUATION! IF WE DON'T ACT FAST...
EVERYBODY DOWN TO THE WATER! WE'RE GOING TO STOP THIS JUNK FROM GOING INTO THE OCEAN--
--OR DIE TRYING!
HA! EASY FOR HIM TO SAY!

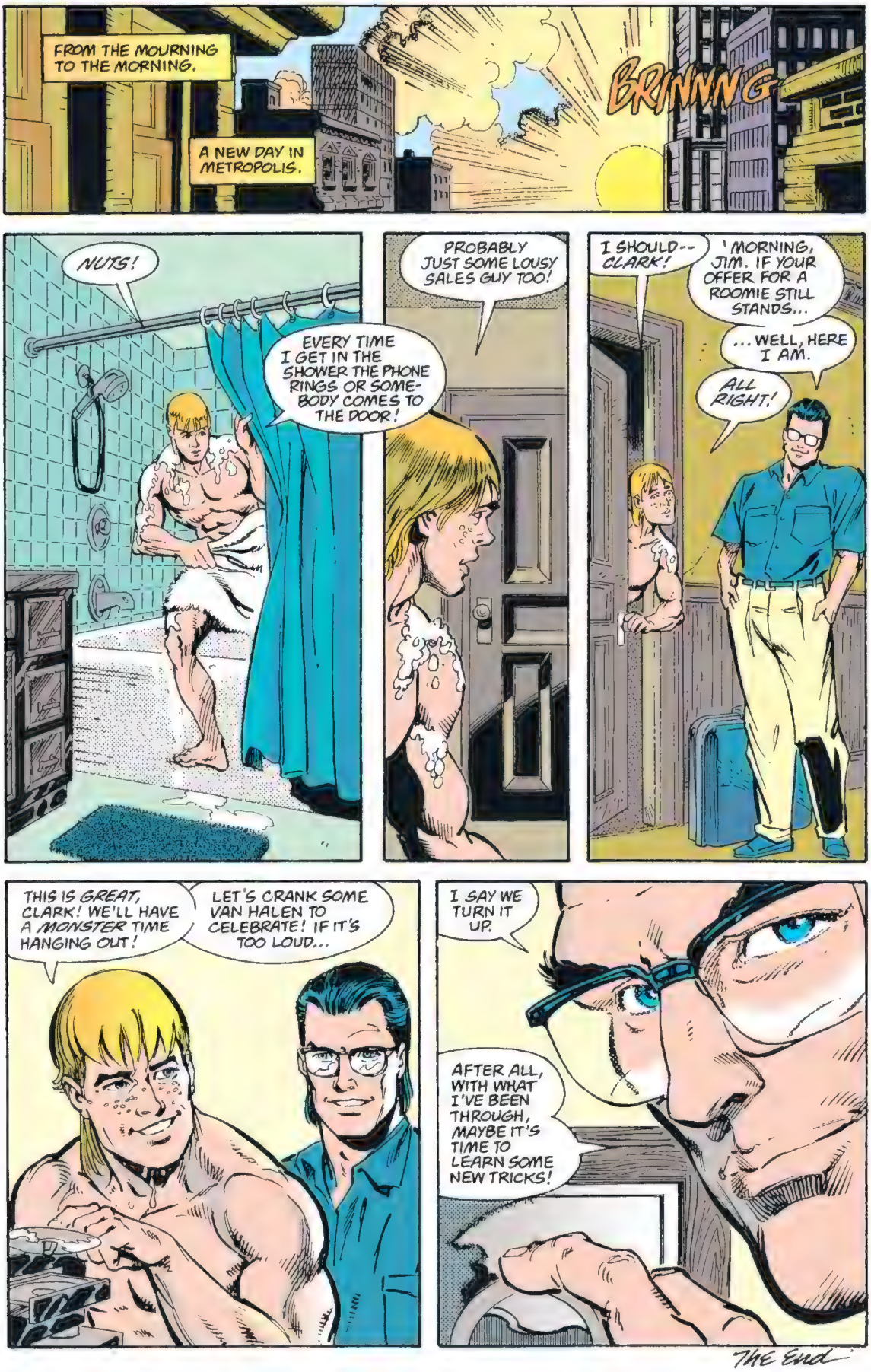
GOT IT!
I'VE ATOMIZED THIS CHUNK, RENDERING IT HARMLESS!
YEAH, BUT THERE'S NO WAY WE'RE GONNA SNAG ALL OF IT!
"FLASH IS RIGHT! THIS IS LIKE TRYING TO GRAB THE ENTIRE CITY OF LOS ANGELES--
"--WITH NOTHING MORE THAN A CATCHER'S MITT!"
WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE A NEW APPROACH!
AND I MAY HAVE JUST THE TICKET! EVERYBODY EVACUATE THE CITY!
"IF WE DON'T STOP THIS NOW WE MAY HAVE AN EVEN WORSE SITUATION ON OUR HANDS!"


SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS! THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T HAVE POWER RINGS CAN GET THE REMAINING ALIENS OUT!
THOSE OF YOU WHO DO, FOLLOW ME!
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND DAD?
WE CAN'T STOP THIS MASSIVE AMOUNT OF JUNK FROM SLIDING INTO THE OCEAN--
-- BUT WE CAN USE OUR RINGS TO DETOXIFY IT!
KINDA LIKE AN ENERGY SCRUB! THAT'S THE TICKET!
IF WE WORK FAST WE CAN DECONTAMINATE THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE! BUT IF THERE'S ANYONE INSIDE--
"--THEY'RE COOKED!"
FINALLY! THE MASTER COMPUTER AND ITS SECRET!
A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF HOW TO REPLICATE KRYPTONITE! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WRITE IT DOWN--
I WONDERED WHERE YOU DISAPPEARED TO!
NO! NOT WHEN I'M SO CLOSE!

I KNOW YOU WANT TO SAVE THIS PLACE, LEX, BUT IT'S TOO LATE!
I'M PSYCHOKINETICALLY LIFTING YOU TO SAFETY FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
AT THIS POINT, THOUGH, THERE IS LITTLE TO UNDERSTAND EXCEPT THE OBVIOUS.
THE ONCE POWERFUL ENGINE, BUILT TO BLAST EARTH OUT OF ITS ORBIT, IS COLLAPSING UNDER ITS OWN WEIGHT.
SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS OF METAL AND SCRAP SLIDE INTO PERMANENT REST AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PACIFIC.
NOW HARMLESS, THE FORMER WEAPON WILL SOMEDAY BECOME A BARRIER REEF, ENCRUSTED WITH OCEAN LIFE.
THOSE WHO OBSERVE THE ENGINE'S DEMISE CAN THINK ONLY OF THE LIVES SURRENDERED TO ITS CONSTRUCTION--
--AND THE HOPE THEY'LL NEVER SEE SUCH DESTRUCTION AGAIN.
SUPERMAN... BUILDING SOMETHING?


AT LEAST NOW THE PEOPLE OF COAST CITY DON'T HAVE AN ATROCITY BUILT BY THEIR KILLER AS A GRAVE-STONE ANY LONGER.
IN FACT... IT'S HARD TO SEE THERE WAS EVER ANYTHING HERE. NO CITY... NO ENGINE...
NOTHING.
KINDA CHOKES ME UP. I LIVED AROUND HERE FOR A TIME TOO, Y'KNOW.
AS THE SILENCE OF THE MOURNFUL HANGS IN THE AIR...
DON'T LEAVE YET, PEOPLE. THERE'S ONE MORE THING TO BE DONE.
HE'S... BROUGHT SOMETHING BACK?
NOT THAT EXACTLY... MORE LIKE SOMETHING HE BUILT!
WEEKS AGO, THIS AREA WAS THE HOME OF COAST CITY, HER SUBURBS, AND THE MILLIONS WHO LIVED THERE.
WE WORK HARD TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT--
--BUT EVEN WE COULDN'T SAVE THEM FROM THE HIDEOUS EVIL THAT ERASED THEM IN SECONDS.
LET THIS SPIRE, BUILT FROM THE VERY ENGINE THAT ONCE STOOD HERE, SERVE AS A TRIBUTE TO THEIR MEMORY--

--AND AS A REMINDER TO US THAT OUR KIND SHALL AWAYS BE NEEDED.
I SWEAR, AS LONG AS I'M ALIVE, THERE WILL BE NO MORE COAST CITIES!
BIG WORDS, SUPES. DOES THIS MEAN YOU'RE COMING BACK TO THE JLA?
NOT YET, GARDNER. BUT IF YOU EVER NEED ME... JUST CALL.
THIS WAS MY HOME, OLLIE. AND NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT... IS AN ENDURING FLAME.
I KNOW, HAL.
WE CAN'T WIN THEM ALL AND WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO BRING BACK YOUR TOWN.
BUT SUPES WAS RIGHT.
WE CAN TRY OUR DAMNEDEST TO MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN.


FROM THE MOURNING TO THE MORNING.
A NEW DAY IN METROPOLIS.
BRRNNG
NUTS!
EVERY TIME I GET IN THE SHOWER THE PHONE RINGS OR SOMEBODY COMES TO THE DOOR!
PROBABLY JUST SOME LOUSY SALES GUY TOO!
I SHOULD-- CLARK!
'MORNING, JIM. IF YOUR OFFER FOR A ROOMIE STILL STANDS...
...WELL, HERE I AM.
ALL RIGHT!
THIS IS GREAT, CLARK! WE'LL HAVE A MONSTER TIME HANGING OUT!
LET'S CRANK SOME VAN HALEN TO CELEBRATE! IF IT'S TOO LOUD...
I SAY WE TURN IT UP.
AFTER ALL, WITH WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH, MAYBE IT'S TIME TO LEARN SOME NEW TRICKS!
THE End

Superman Post-Crisis Chronology
Volume 065 The Return of Superman

"Who Is The Hero True?", first appeared in Action Comics issue #689, released May, 1993
Roger Stern (writer), Jackson Butch Guice (penciller), Denis Rodier (inker)

"Impact!", first appeared in Superman: The Man of Steel issue #24, released June, 1993
Louise Jones Simonson (writer), Jon Bogdanove (penciller), Dennis Janke (inker)

"Loose Cannon", first appeared in Action Comics Annual issue #5, released January, 1993
Jeph Loeb (writer), Lee Moder (penciller), Mike Zeck (penciller), Joe Rubinstein (inker), José Marzán Jr. (inker), Karl Kesel (inker), Terry Beatty (inker)

"Deadly Alliance", first appeared in Superman issue #80, released June, 1993
Brett Breeding (writer), Dan Jurgens (writer), Brett Breeding (penciller), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Brett Breeding (inker), Brett Breeding (inker), Dan Jurgens (inker)

"Line of Fire!", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman issue #503, released June, 1993
Karl Kesel (writer), Tom Grummett (penciller), Doug Hazlewood (inker)

"Lies & Revelations", first appeared in Action Comics issue #690, released June, 1993
Roger Stern (writer), Jackson Butch Guice (penciller), Kerry Gammill (penciller), Denis Rodier (inker), Jackson Butch Guice (inker)

"The Return!", first appeared in Superman: The Man of Steel issue #25, released July, 1993
Louise Jones Simonson (writer), Jon Bogdanove (penciller), Dennis Janke (inker)

"Resurrections", first appeared in Superman issue #81, released July, 1993
Dan Jurgens (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Brett Breeding (inker)

"Assault on Engine City!", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman issue #504, released July, 1993
Karl Kesel (writer), Karl Kesel (penciller), Tom Grummett (penciller), Doug Hazlewood (inker)

"Secret Weapon", first appeared in Action Comics issue #691, released July, 1993
Roger Stern (writer), Ed Hannigan (penciller), Jackson Butch Guice (penciller), Kerry Gammill (penciller), Denis Rodier (inker), Ed Hannigan (inker), Jackson Butch Guice (inker)

"Blood Relations!", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman Annual issue #5, released January, 1993
Tom Grummett (writer), Ed Hannigan (penciller), Mike Zeck (penciller), Tom Grummett (penciller), Andrew Pepoy (inker), Karl Kesel (inker)

"Blast Off!", first appeared in Superman: The Man of Steel issue #26, released August, 1993
Louise Jones Simonson (writer), Jon Bogdanove (penciller), Dennis Janke (inker)

Excerpt from "Death City", first appeared in Green Lantern issue #46, released August 24, 1993
Gerard Jones (writer), Mark Bright (penciller), Romeo Tanghal (inker)

"Back For Good!", first appeared in Superman issue #82, released August, 1993
Dan Jurgens (writer), Brett Breeding (penciller), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Brett Breeding (inker), Brett Breeding (inker), Dan Jurgens (inker)

Excerpt from "Reignfall!", first appeared in Deadman: Dead Again issue #4, released August, 2001
Steve Vance (writer), Andrew Helfer (penciller), Mark Bright (penciller), Andrew Helfer (inker)

"Reign of the Superman!", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman issue #505, released August, 1993
Karl Kesel (writer), Tom Grummett (penciller), Doug Hazlewood (inker)

"And Who, Disguised as Clark Kent?", first appeared in Action Comics issue #692, released August, 1993
Karl Kesel (writer), Roger Stern (writer), Ed Hannigan (penciller), Jackson Butch Guice (penciller), Kerry Gammill (penciller), Denis Rodier (inker), Ed Hannigan (inker)

"Bad Character", first appeared in Superman: The Man of Steel issue #27, released September, 1993
Louise Jones Simonson (writer), Jon Bogdanove (penciller), Dennis Janke (inker)

"On the Edge", first appeared in Superman issue #83, released September, 1993
Dan Jurgens (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Joe Rubinstein (penciller), Dan Jurgens (inker), Joe Rubinstein (inker), Joe Rubinstein (inker)

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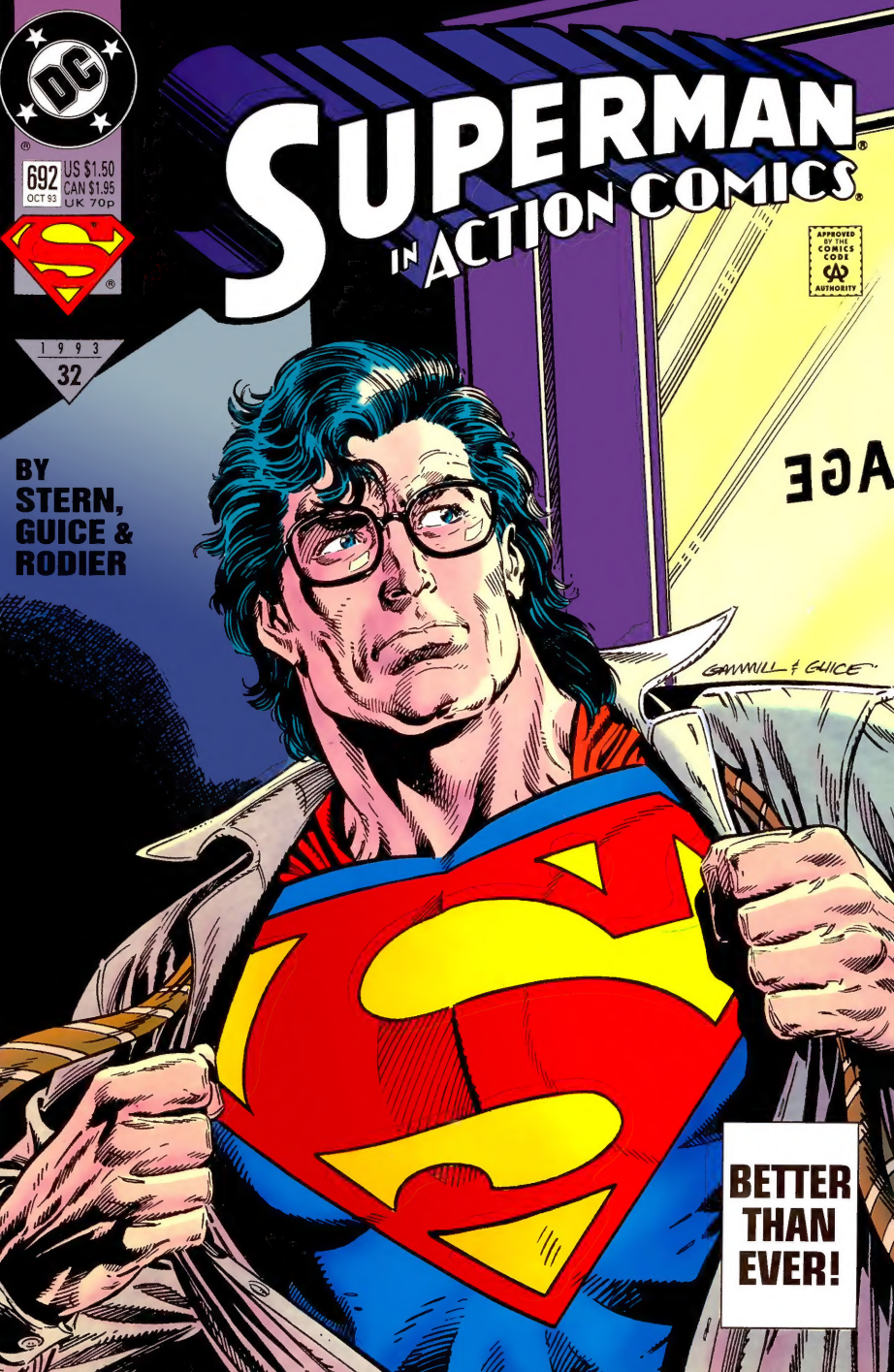
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